THE INDEPENDENT

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The Tabloid

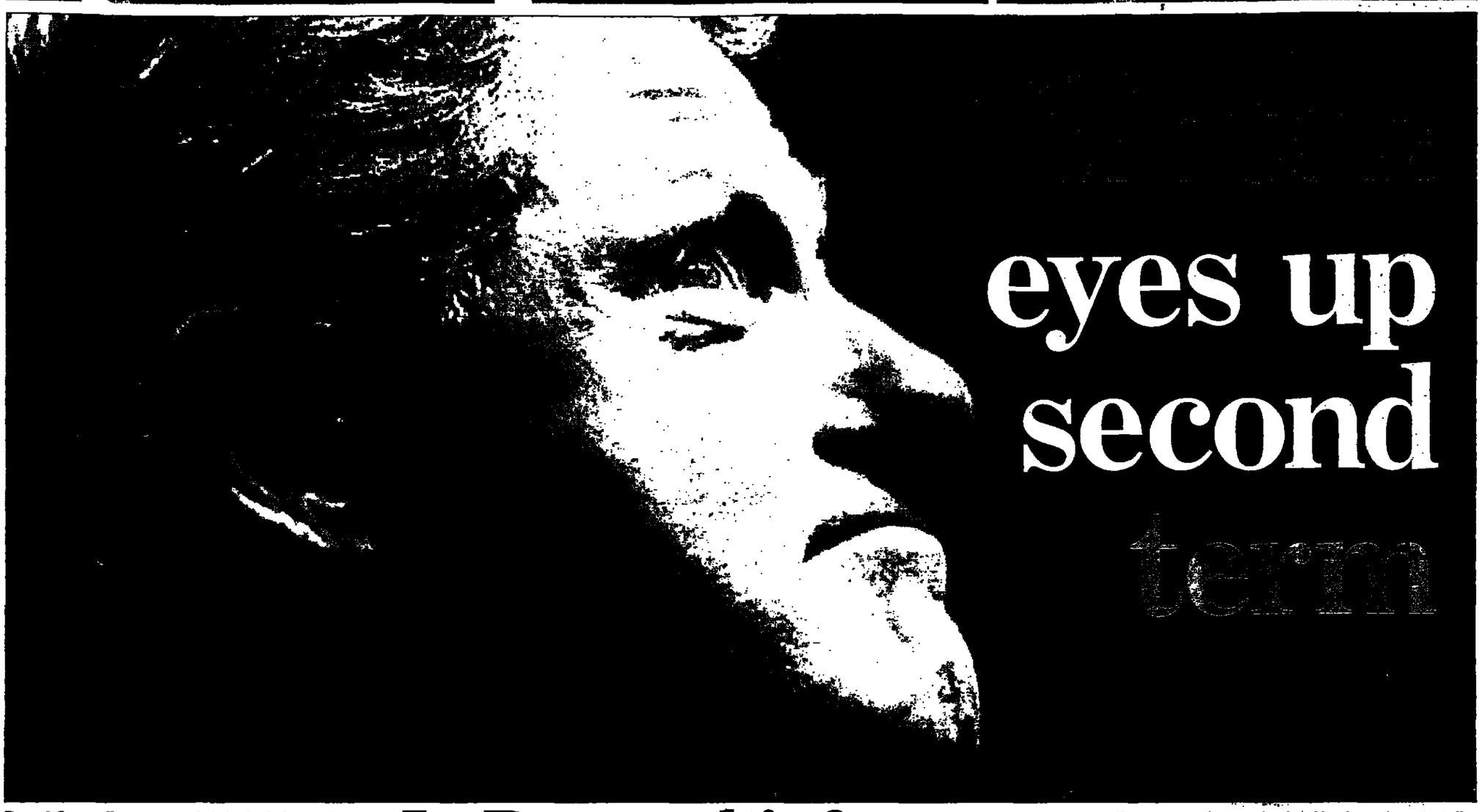
Suzanne Moore: What is a whore?

The Tabloid

Bridget Jones: Betrayed again

Comment

Polly Toynbee: Who needs defence?



In Roosevelt's footsteps

Rupert Cornwell
Washington

Bill Clinton seemed on track yesterday to defeat his Republican challenger Bob Dole and win the US Presidential election, thus becoming the first Democrat since Franklin Roosevelt in 1936 to win a second successive term in the White House.

The last batch of election day opinion polls showed the 50-year-old President with a double-digit lead, enough if translated into actual votes to give him a handsome majority *in the 538-member electoral college* which technically decides the outcome of the vote.

Though a string of Democratic campaign finance scandals have stirred fresh doubts about Administration ethics and cut into Mr Clinton's once overwhelming lead, the mood was euphoric on as the Presidential plane carried Mr Clinton back to Little Rock, Arkansas, in the early hours yesterday to cast his vote in what is the final election of his career.

An exhausted Mr Dole returned to his home town of Russell, Kansas, to vote in his last election after 43 years in national politics. "It's uphill, but it can be done," he declared after casting his ballot, the final moment of a draining 10,500 mile, 96-hour round-the-clock chase through 20 states for votes which wrapped up his *campaign. "I feel a little nervous,* I never voted for myself before as President."

To win, Mr Dole needed what placards at his final rallies were proclaiming as "The Upset of the Century". One encouraging sign however was a poll showing Mr Dole had narrowed the gap in Ohio, a Midwestern state without which no Republican has ever won the White House, to just two points. But a final-day Gallup poll showed Mr Clinton leading nationally by 52 per cent to 41 per cent, with 7 per cent supporting the Reform Party candidate Ross Perot.

Though the Texas billionaire has hardly moved beyond single figures, *a late surge in his* support at the expense of Mr Clinton could hold the key to Mr Dole's hopes of capitalising on concerns about the President's character and securing an upset that would eclipse any in American political history.

To the end Mr Perot has lambasted the White House over ethics and campaign finance, warning that Mr Clinton could be indicted. "We are on the verge of Watergate II and a constitutional crisis," Mr Perot declared as he went to vote in his home city of Dallas. "Why would you even think of voting for a President who violates the law, doesn't tell the truth and doesn't keep his promises?"

And yesterday brought more embarrassment for the Administration, as officials conceded that the Indonesian billionaire James Riady, whose Lippo group has made large contributions to the Democratic party, had made more than a dozen visits to the White House over the past four years, during which he discussed US trade policy with Mr Clinton.

Assuming a Clinton win, and if the Republicans retain control of Congress, this development further ensures that the Democrats' seamy campaign finance record will come under intense scrutiny in the months ahead. Indeed a host of unresolved scandals and ethics issues are the darkest single cloud on a second Clinton term.

But if there seemed little doubt over the outcome of the Presidential contest, the battle *for control of Congress was set* to run late into the night. Just before lunch, the Dow Jones index was 50 points up, reflecting Wall Street's growing belief that the Republicans would preserve their majority.

On the Senate side, where the Democrats need a net gain of three while defending four highly vulnerable southern seats, change is unlikely. The House of Representatives, where the Democrats must win a net 19 seats and 73 first-time Republican Congressmen are defending their seats, is still a toss-up, but Republicans believe that a public desire not to give a "blank cheque" to Mr Clinton and the Democrats will keep them in the majority. If so it would be the first time since 1930 that the party has kept control for more than two years.

Meanwhile the expected *post-election changes at the* top of the Administration were taking clearer shape. According to White House officials, Mr Clinton's chief of staff Leon Panetta wants to step down. Among others not expected to serve in a second term are the Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, Attorney-General Janet Reno, and perhaps also William Perry, the Defense Secretary.

In the first results, announced just after midnight yesterday, the two New Hampshire hamlets of Dixville Notch and Hart's Location came in for Mr Dole, by 31 votes against 20 for Mr Clinton and five for Mr Perot.

US elections, pages 12 and 13
How will Clinton fare? page 16

Inside: US Election Special
Taste for re-election, ***page 12***
Cynicism wins, old warrior, ***page 13***
Rupert Cornwell, ***page 16***

But is the Comeback Kid in the FDR class?

By Godfrey Hodgson

Roosevelt: Architect of the modern Democratic Party

He looks set to be remembered as the *Comeback Kid of all times. Two years* ago, a second victory for Bill Clinton seemed inconceivable. Yet long before yesterday, it had already become inevitable. If, in addition to Mr Clinton's return to the White House, the Democrats win back control of Congress, then Mr Clinton's achievement will be doubly astonishing, matching that of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

At first glance, that comparison looks feeble. After all, FDR was the architect not only of the modern Democratic Party but of the modern presidency as well. Seizing the opportunity created by the Great Depression, he forged an alliance between the two great blocks of voters who hated the Republicans: white southerners who could not forgive them for winning the Civil War, and northern immigrants who saw them as a discredited, self-satisfied Protestant business élite. It was FDR's great achievement *to weld these im*probable partners together under the leadership of progressive intellectuals.

But that coalition has been falling apart since the Vietnam war and the civil rights revolution tore away great chunks of traditional Democratic support in the 1960s. The task for Mr Clinton was to hold on to the remaining bastions of Democratic support – among them blacks and other minorities and a majority of women – and attract as many other voters, and especially southern and western white males, as possible. That, to a remarkable degree, he has achieved, and that is how he has won a second term. By this test, Bill Clinton is far from puny.

As a campaigner, Mr Clinton is in FDR's class. As a politician, he has been far less successful. But the difference lies less in the two men's talents than in how *the context of* American politics and the mood of the American people have changed. Party machinery has atrophied. Candidates campaign in the media and largely with paid advertisements. That costs money – hundreds of millions of dollars – and Republicans have more money than Democrats.

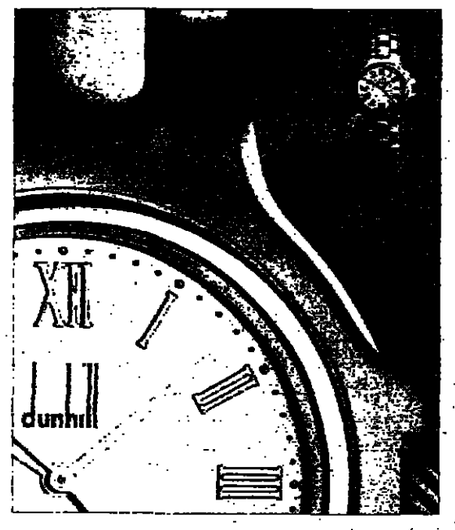
In any case, FDR wasn't truly the FDR of legend. His personal glamour and his political skill, not to mention the prestige he acquired later as the architect of victory, obscures the fact that the New Deal didn't really work. It was the war, not the National Recovery Act, that ended the Depression.

Nor was FDR in all respects the noble figure his admirers presented to the public. Like Mr Clinton, he had his sexual peccadilloes and his political skeletons. In those days the press did not write about such things.

But Roosevelt was *more than just* a man who won elections. He saw that the president's strategic strength lies in the fact that he is the only leader all Americans vote for. He alone can reach out over the heads of politicians and interests alike, portraying himself as "the president of all the people".

Americans in FDR's time were full of righteous anger and long-term optimism, full of dreams of building a more prosperous society at home and a safer world. Today they are at once wrapped in ideas of their own "exceptionalism" and full of self-doubt, largely indifferent to the outside world, suspicious of government, yet determined not to lose its benefits. In his campaigns, Bill Clinton has shown a rare gift for articulating this mood of discontent. In a second term, he may surprise everyone by taking radical action to assuage it.

ALFRED DUNHILL



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QUICKLY

De Glanville to captain England

Phil de Glanville, 28, who captains Bath, is to be England rugby captain. His appointment means that his predecessor, Will Carling, faces a fight with Jeremy Guscott for the one available centre place. "It is time for someone new to put his stamp on the side," de Glanville said. Pages 24 and 28

Tax U-turn to deprive fat cats

The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, made a last minute U-turn and did not include capital gains tax cuts in last year's Budget because Cedric Brown, who was the chief executive of British Gas and Britain's most notorious "fat cat", would have made too much money from it. The proposed reduction in the rate of tax from 40p in the pound to 24p would have gone towards honouring John Major's promise to abolish the tax. Mr Brown, who has retired, personified popular disapproval of "fat cats". Page 2

Yeltsin fine after operation

Russian President Boris Yeltsin is in a critical 48-hour period after which his surgeons will get a clearer of the success of the mutiple heart by-pass operation. He is on a respiratory machine following the seven-hour operation during which doctors stopped his heart for 68 minutes. Mr Yeltsin, 65, has temporarily transferred power to the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin. A medical bulletin said: "Everything was fine, great. He is OK." Mr Yeltsin was confident he would be back to work soon. Page 9

Ridings head expels 12 pupils

The new headmaster of the troubled Ridings School in Halifax, closed because of assaults *on teachers by pupils, expelled* 12 students and temporarily excluded 23. Peter Clark was appointed acting head last week. His action came as the school's governors met to discuss an inspection report which is expected to brand the school a failure. His actions are expected to go some way towards meeting the deamnds of teachers who said they would strike unless 60 children were expelled. Page 5

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Ministry of sound pumps up the volume

DAVID AARONOVITCH

It had been a pleasant lunch, followed by a brisk walk, and I entered the Chamber just as the bishop, who conducts daily prayers, was leaving (I bet he's a supporter of New Labour). So I fell into a reverie up in the gallery. Below me party jibes were exchanged gently across the Chamber, above me – beyond the skylight – swallows were skimming through the bright autumn air.

And suddenly, like rap music played on a monster hi-fi at 3am in a suburban mews, a bellowing voice woke the slumbering journalists with a jolt, and had the clerks pulling their wigs over their ears.

"ONLY WE HAVE GIVEN THE PLEDGE TO INCREASE HEALTH SPENDING YEAR BY YEAR BY YEAR BY YEAR", roared the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell.

Who, I wondered, was he yelling at? What had annoyed him so badly? Gradually, as Mr Dorrell answered all questions at the top of his voice, I realised that he was not angry, but that the volume control on his larynx had broken.

Breakfast in the Dorrell household must be a trial, with the kids in ear-muffs, all the glassware hidden, and Dad asking whether there is "ANY MORE TOAST!"

From the Labour front bench Tessa Jowell, dressed in the New Labour uniform of short-bob and twin-set (powder-blue, for those of you wondering what the Follett Girls are wearing this autumn), asked a fair-enough question about the use of "finished consultant episodes" as a measure of patient treatment (the same patient released too early from hospital, then re-treated, counts twice). This was Dorrell's reply, shouted at a zillion decibels: "SHE STILL REFUSES TO GIVE THE PLEDGE THAT SHE WILL INCREASE SPENDING YEAR BY YEAR BY YEAR BY YEAR BY YEAR!"

Of course she does. If she committed herself to spending one penny extra on corn-plasters, it would be the end of Labour's attempt to portray itself as the prudent party; the sky would fall on their heads and all would be lost.

Dorrell's pledge (which originated with the Prime Minister at the party conference) is thus designed specifically to embarrass the opposition.

So it was tactically risky for Tony Blair to raise the issue of health during Prime Minister's Questions later on. But he did.

"The NHS is in a state of crisis", what was the Government going to do about it?

Put tons and tons of money into it, unlike you lot, said Mr Major. No, you should cut bureaucracy and make it more efficient, said Mr Blair, in a total role reversal. But the Socialist Health Association says that would be wrong, the Prime Minister replied surrealistically.

Perhaps it was the oddness of this exchange that set up a remarkable Majorism, also on health. Paddy (who has stared death in the face, and is not afraid of putting taxes up) had done his bit on trolleys in corridors and half-completed brain surgery, and the PM had given a weary "wait-for-the-budget" answer, ending with "I have nothing further to say". Then, suddenly adding in a loud high-pitched voice (left over from Stephen Dorrell, perhaps), "EXCEPT THIS!"

"This" was the pledge to increase health spending year after year after year etc. "You don't have to look in the mirror", Mr Major said emphatically, "when you can look at the record".

No, I suppose not. Why worry about what you look like now, when you can read about what you looked like a long time ago? It makes perfect sense.

Fear of fat cat's gain foiled plan to axe tax

Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

Kenneth Clarke drew back from a planned cut in capital gains tax on the eve of last year's Budget because Cedric Brown, then chief executive of British Gas and the most notorious of Britain's fat cats, would have made too much money out of it.

The proposed reduction from 40p in the pound to 24p would have gone part of the way to honouring the Prime Minister's pledge to abolish capital gains and inheritance taxes. But the Chancellor made a last-minute U-turn when an alert Treasury official noticed that there would be a windfall for Mr Brown and other highly paid executives if he went ahead.

Mr Brown's 75 per cent pay increase last year, before he stepped down from British Gas, created a national uproar. Although not Britain's highest-paid businessman, he became the lightning-conductor for popular disapproval of executive greed.

On top of his salary and incentive payments of nearly £500,000 and a pension worth £5.5m, Mr Brown had share options worth about £300,000 a year ago. A reduction of 16p in the rate of capital gains tax could have saved him nearly £50,000 in tax if he had exercised all the options.

The average tax saving for fat cats if the Chancellor had gone ahead would have been around £30,000, and the handful with share options worth more than £1m would have saved close to £160,000 in tax. The move would have delighted the Labour Party, which already regarded Mr Major's pledge as the Government's worst tactical mistake on the tax front. Labour had prepared a fat cats dossier ahead of last year's Budget just in case.

The party calculated that abolition of the tax would create a boardroom bonanza at the privatised utilities, with tax savings of £492,000 for Roger Unwin, former chief executive of London Electricity, for example, and £181,000 for Ed Wallis, chief executive of Powergen.

Although both Mr Major and Mr Clarke have since repeated the promise to abolish capital gains tax, tax experts believe the Government will remain vulnerable to the same problem. "They are very keen not to give the Labour Party any easy targets," said Andrew Dilnot, director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

A move to abolish inheritance tax was more likely this year. "It is symbolic, and it's cheap and easy because it does not raise much money," he said.

However, even if there are fat cats who would profit from a cut in capital gains tax, Mr Brown is no longer among them. His options over 703,000 British Gas shares are currently worthless because of the low level of the company's share price on the stock market.

Dorrell wins extra £500m

Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

Tory MPs were last night writing off their hopes of a substantial tax give-away Budget after Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, emerged as a winner in the spending battle with the Treasury.

The other winners at the special meeting of the Cabinet were Michael Howard, who will get an increase in spending for the police next year and Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, whose schools budget will be increased.

The losers will include Sir George Young, whose roads budget is expected to be slashed for the second successive year, Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, who is being told to cut funding for the arts and Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, who was told to provide deeper cuts than he volunteered. Among the cuts single parents allowance is expected to be frozen. Details will be announced after the Budget on 26 November.

But Tory MPs were writing off their hopes of large-scale tax cuts in the Budget. "The Chancellor will probably raise allowances for the low paid and take 1p off income tax but it is not a winning hand," said one former Cabinet minister.

Another senior right-wing MP said: "I don't expect more than £2 to £3bn in tax cuts. Now we will be saying we have protected public services but the tax burden will have gone up. At the election, I shall be saying, 'don't blame me'."

The Health Secretary secured an extra £500m for growth on top of £800m for inflation. It came close to the £1.5bn he demanded though the Government was last night facing growing demands for emergency cash to help hospitals avert a crisis this winter.

It could still leave hospitals with the prospect of going into the red or cutting operations, until the money is available next April. Department of Health officials ruled out any interim payment for hospitals before Christmas. In the Commons Mr Dorrell faced a call by Chris Smith, Labour's Shadow Health Secretary, for an emergency package for the hospitals who are going into the red.

The £200 plastic front door that cost the taxpayer £10,000

Open and shut case: The disputed door at Patricia Harman's home in the Derbyshire Dales

Ian Burrell

English Heritage officials spent £10,000 on a failed legal action to force a woman living in a Derbyshire Dales conservation area to change her £200 plastic door, it emerged yesterday.

Patricia Harman, 53, has fought for two years to retain a wood-effect UPVC four-panelled door, installed at her mid-terraced home in the village of Wirksworth. And yesterday, a High Court judge rejected English Heritage claims that a Department of the Environment planning inspector was wrong in law not to declare the door "unsuitable".

The judge also rejected the conservation body's claim that allowing it to remain would create a precedent which could jeopardise efforts to preserve the character and appearance of buildings in conservation areas around the country.

In the first case of its kind, Deputy Judge Moriarty QC said: "In my judgment, the criticisms made are not borne out on a fair reading of the decision letter."

Patrick McLoughlin, Tory MP for West Derbyshire, said the English Heritage action had been pointless and wasteful. "This was an absurd waste of money. There are better things to spend money on and I am rather appalled at the way English Heritage have hounded a constituent of mine."

However, Dr Anthony Streeten, head of English Heritage's East Midlands conservation team, said it was money well spent. "It is not £10,000 wasted because it has given us the very full airing that we were seeking of the issues involved," he said. "Our fundamental concern is not a resistance to plastic. It is that we don't consider you can achieve the subtlety of treatment, of texture, of detailing, in plastic that can be achieved with the traditional craftsmanship in finishing a traditional door."

He said English Heritage was happy that the court had treated the case as a "one-off" that would not allow other homeowners in conservation areas to make similar changes to their properties.

"Counsel for the Secretary of State made it very clear that they did not consider this particular inspector's decision to create a precedent," he said.

Head of Child Support Agency quits after two years in job

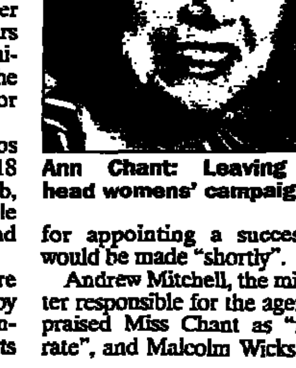
John Rentoul
Political Correspondent

The Chief Executive of the controversial Child Support Agency is to leave after little more than two years in the job, it was announced yesterday.

Ann Chant, 51, credited with turning the agency round after its disastrous launch three years ago, is to head the Opportunity 2000 campaign to increase the number of women in senior management.

Her predecessor, Ros Hepplewhite, resigned after 18 turbulent months in the job, apologising for "unacceptable standards", and saying she had enough.

In a sign that her departure had taken the Government by surprise, yesterday's announcement said arrangements for appointing a successor would be made "shortly".


Ann Chant: Leaving to head womens' campaign

Andrew Mitchell, the minister responsible for the agency, praised Miss Chant as "first rate", and Malcolm Wicks for Labour, which has toned down its criticisms of the agency, said: "Things were beginning to move in the right direction. This is bad news for child-support policy. She provided strong leadership to the CSA after an extremely poor start and I am therefore concerned about the leadership of the agency at this sensitive time."

Miss Chant said: "My time at the CSA has often been hectic and certainly challenging but I am pleased that I will be leaving my successor an agency which has a steadily improving performance and excellent staff and managers in place to ensure the good record continues."

The agency was launched to trace absent fathers and extract child maintenance payments from them according to an "automatic" scale which replaced individual court orders.

But last week MPs accused ministers and Miss Chant of continued complacency. An all-party committee said that serious mistakes continued to be made and that it was "not appropriate" for Miss Chant to try to minimise them.

The CSA's watchdog, the Ombudsman, Sir William Reid, also expressed "puzzlement" that the agency was not making better progress, given all the money poured into it.

Miss Chant has overseen a dramatic reduction in the agency's error rate. But Frank Field, Labour chairman of the cross-party Commons social security committee, has criticised the agency for effectively granting an amnesty to about 300,000 people who have failed to reply to letters.

significant shorts

Fireworks deaths protest

Relatives of two people killed by fireworks handed in a letter of protest to the Prime Minister yesterday calling for tougher laws on the sale of imported fireworks yesterday, as the country's biggest manufacturer called for an urgent review of their licensing, testing and sale.

Joan Mitchell, aunt of a nine-year-old boy killed last week, and Antony Robinson, whose brother Roger died two years ago, were among a delegation which handed in a letter of protest to No 10 Downing Street. The move comes after two more deaths at the weekend from Chinese "mortar"-type fireworks, and amid fears that thousands of imported fireworks could pose a lethal danger.

The DTI said it would consider the plan as part of its overall review of firework control, due to report in the new year. *Charles Arthur*

Howard under fire

A leading barrister said last night that a judge's decision to reduce a prison term on a mugger who stole a £12,000 Rolex watch illustrated why mandatory sentencing would not work.

In a veiled criticism of Michael Howard's plans unveiled in his Crime Bill, Chris Sallon QC said judges' freedom to sentence according to the merits of individual cases was vital.

Judges had the right, enshrined in law, to change their mind about a prison term and impose a less harsh penalty for up to one month after the original sentencing.

Greg Lynn, of the Victims of Crime Trust, said crime victims could feel insulted by criminals receiving lighter sentences in recognition of the fact that they have pleaded guilty.

Dangerous men on run

Six dangerous prisoners were on the run last night after overpowering guards while they were being transferred to jails in London.
The Category B prisoners, five men convicted of robbery and the other for possession of firearms, were serving sentences of between eight and 12 years. Although handcuffed, they managed to overpower five prison officers in a minibus as it travelled through north London before escaping on foot.
Four of the five prison officers needed hospital treatment, although the escapers were not thought to be armed

Shopping malls blow

Town centres have been given a boost in their battle against out-of-town shopping malls. Government and major shopping chains have agreed to fund a £200,000 research project into self-help schemes, in which businesses located in decline-threatened centres club together to fund local improvements in a tightly defined "business improvement zones" which keep them attractive to shoppers, visitors and property investors.
The research will cover about 10n areas, including Brixton and Oxford Street in London, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Newcastle and Bristol.
Nicholas Schoon

Poverty gap is widest in Britain

The gap between rich and poor has been widening more in Britain than anywhere in the European Union, a report due for release by the European Commission today suggests.

Numbers of families living below the poverty line as a proportion of the population rose from 14.3% to 17.2% during the decade 1983 to 1993, by far the biggest increase. The poverty line is defined as half the average income for the country as a whole and the report puts Britain ahead only of the four most deprived EU members-Spain Portugal Greece and Ireland. By contrast only 5% of households in the Benelux states fall below the poverty line. *Katherine Butler, Brussels*

Student help lines attacked

Students who phone university "hot lines" looking for places cannot always expect good advice or even basic courtesy, according to research published yesterday.

A third of the people answering phones during clearing this year were unhelpful or incompetent, and one in six was not even polite, anonymous calls to 151 universities and colleges showed.

At Riley Advertising, one of the biggest university recruitment agencies, found that two of those called had printed the wrong phone number for their help lines.

Of 22 who offered to send specific details of courses, only one did so. Almost half failed to identify themselves properly when answering the phone. *Fran Abrams*

Mill buildings listed

Thirty former mill buildings from the golden age of the textile industry were listed today as of special historic interest.

The move to protect the mills in Greater Manchester, announced by Heritage Minister Lord Inglewood, adds them to 60 already listed.

Lord Inglewood said: "There were once around 2,400 mills in the Greater Manchester area. Yet by 1992, nearly half of those buildings had been demolished." The decision to add the buildings to the list comes after recommendations from English Heritage after a comprehensive study.

The former mills include 11 in the Bolton area, six in Oldham, nine in Rochdale, two in Salford, four in Stockport, four in Tameside, and one in Wigan.

"It is important that we act now to identify the most significant survivors and preserve them for the benefit of future generations."

'Gunman' was boy aged 12

Scottish police officers burst into the house of a suspected gunman yesterday after a report from a frightened member of the public.
But instead of finding a dangerous gunman, the police discovered a 12-year old boy, whose Hallowe'en outfit had been mistaken for something more sinister.
The boy, who was taken from the house in Aberdeen by officers, is understood to have eapt out of a ground floor window in front of the passer-by who was so alarmed that he contacted the police.

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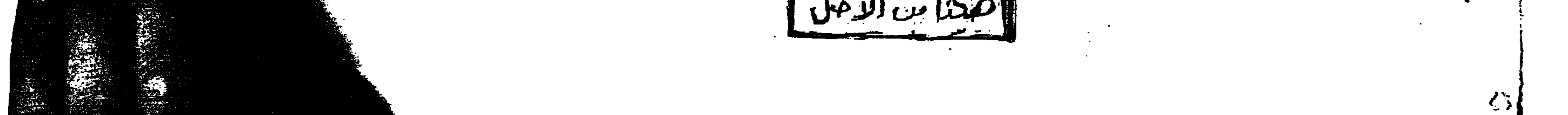
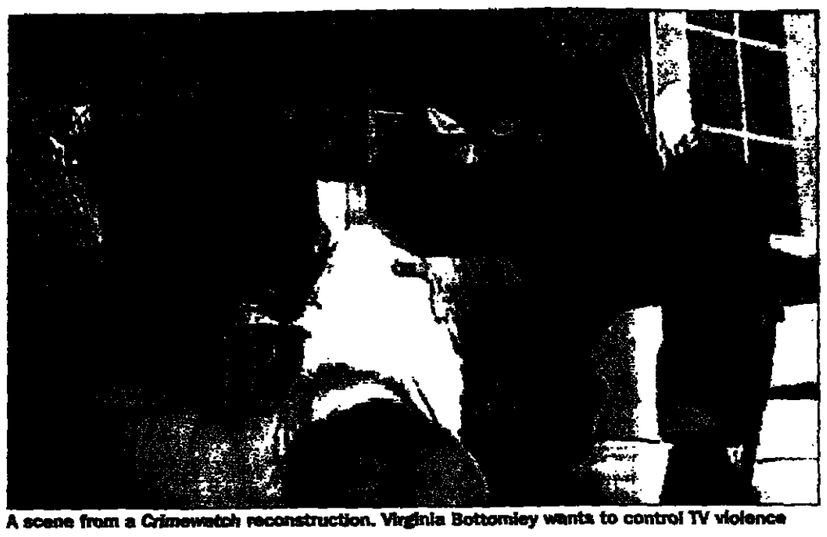


Q: What do a Jeremy Paxman interview and an armed robbery have in common?

A: They are both pawns in a new game of TV politics

Jeremy Paxman: Corporation wants new controls on 'rottweiler interviews'



A scene from a Crimewatch reconstruction. Virginia Bottomley wants to control TV violence

BBC muzzles interviewers

Mathew Horsman
Media Editor

The BBC yesterday unveiled its first "statement of promises" to licence fee payers, guaranteeing fewer repeats, value for money, more original British programming and full accountability to viewers.

The move toward introducing a Citizen's Charter for the BBC was widely seen last night as part of the public service broadcaster's highly public campaign to win an increase in the licence fee to more than £100 within two years.

As it wooed the political parties the corporation also said it pledged to curb violence and bad language, in line with viewers' sentiments, and to ensure there were no "Rottweiler" interviews. The BBC has been criticised in the past for the aggressive interviewing techniques of presenters such as John Humphreys of *Today* and Jeremy Paxman of *Newsnight*.

The statement, which runs to 50 pages and which will be sent to 10 million households, follows a long consultation process launched by the renewal of the BBC Charter last year. The corporation will have spent nearly £500,000 on the consultation and mailing.

Introducing the statement yesterday Sir Christopher Bland, the Chairman of the BBC Board of Governors, said: "Viewers and listeners fund the BBC through the licence fee. They have a right to know what the BBC is planning to do, year by year. They have the right to know whether the BBC has spent money effectively and how the BBC is responding to their views."

Among specific pledges the BBC said it would strive to ensure that eight out of every 10 hours of programming was made in the UK and that at least a third of programmes are made in the regions by 1998.

Promises covering programmes for ethnic groups, more factual shows in peak time and a new morning schedule were also made. Interviewers would ask "appropriately forceful questions with courtesy and a consistent tone, regardless of who holds those opinions".

The BBC also said it would take account of viewers' preferences when selecting which programmes would be repeated.

Complaints would be answered within 20 working days.

The statement of promises was said yesterday to be consistent with John Major's Citizen's Charter and was aimed at ensuring that licence fee payers felt the television and radio services provided value for money.

"This is the start of a closer relationship between the world's greatest cultural institution and those who make it what it is – the licence payers," John Birt, the director general, said.

The BBC launched its campaign to win a higher licence fee in August and is awaiting the Government's decision about the formula to be used to set the payment from 1 April next year. The BBC has suggested a modest, single-digit annual increase to take the fee to £100 within two years.

The higher fee is linked to plans to introduce digital services from next year and to safeguard the core television and radio programming. It would mark the first real increase in the fee for 10 years, the BBC has argued.

The BBC is pledging more emphasis on factual programmes and documentaries and viewers will have more choice on repeats of old programmes

Curbs on crime shows

Mathew Horsman
Media Editor

John Major's government yesterday moved television to the very centre of the pre-election campaign, as Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage called for urgent action against TV violence.

In letters to the BBC, the Independent Television Commission and the Broadcasting Standards Council, Ms Bottomley expressed particular disquiet at the "unhealthy concentration on crime and the emergency services", including true crime reconstructions and even scenes from popular series such as *Casualty*, *Prime Suspect* and *London's Burning*. She asked for an urgent meeting to discuss ways of ensuring that "television programme makers and broadcasters take full account of the standards acceptable to today's viewers".

She added: "I would also like to explore what more we can do to help protect vulnerable groups of viewers, particularly children, from unsuitable material."

The move was seen in broadcasting circles as overtly political, and aimed at helping the Conservatives regain the moral high ground lost to Tony Blair's Labour in recent weeks.

"Who knows, maybe the Government will start talking about the V-chip again, depending on where they stand in the polls," said one industry chief executive.

The V-chip is a device installed in TV sets to let parents to block out programmes of a violent or sexual nature.

Statistics compiled by the ITC show that the incidence of violence on TV has actually decreased in recent years, and only 4 per cent of complaints to the BBC in the last three months were related to violence, none of which were upheld by the BBC's own internal complaints unit.

In a related move, the Home Office called for a clampdown on video violence, and has requested a report from the British Board of Classification on ways to reduce the incidence. "We must redouble our efforts to raise standards in the media and the video industry," Tom Sackville, the Home Office minister, said in a speech to the British Video Association in London yesterday.

Ms Bottomley has also requested the BBC, the ITC and the BSC to furnish written reports by the end of the month detailing actions they have already taken to curb the incidence of violence on television.

The BBC said last night that violence was "an issue we take seriously, and our guidelines are constantly under review". It added that it took its responsibility to abide by the 9pm watershed in peak time particularly seriously, and that it routinely warned viewers about potentially offensive programmes.

The unofficial view at the BBC was less restrained, with one senior source suggesting: "This is blatant electioneering, and an over-reaction."

BBC sources also suggested that the timing appeared linked to the publication yesterday of the BBC's *Statement of Promises*, which the public service broadcaster viewed as proof of its commitment to listen to the views of licence payers.

The Government's action followed a rare official warning issued to Carlton over a protracted rape scene in an episode of *London Bridge*.

Oxford dons vote against business school project

Charlie Bain

Oxford University faced acute embarrassment last night after plans for a £40m business school were postponed amid controversy over a £20m donation from the middle eastern financier, Wafic Said.

Several hundred academics attended a meeting of Congregation in the Sheldonian Theatre to vote on the proposed development of the business school on the present site of the university sports ground, next to Merton College. The proposal provoked outrage because the fields had been sold to the university by Merton in the 1960s on the understanding they would not be developed.

Although Congregation voted 259-214 against the development, the proposal might still go to a postal vote next week.

Many opponents of the plan were said to disapprove of the involvement of Mr Said, a friend of Baroness Thatcher, who helped British Aerospace win the Al-Yamamah arms deal with Saudi Arabia.

Much of yesterday's resolution centred on Mr Said's stipulation that a private foundation be set up to govern the school. This would be run by the vice-chancellor, and three university representatives, alongside Mr Said and five outside trustees appointed by him.

Opponents of the plan see this as a threat to the university's constitutional independence and fear a precedent could be set, leading to a fragmentation of Oxford's governing body.

Mr Alexander Murray, a medieval history don opposing the plan, said the proposal was a "distinctly discomforting arrangement" and warned that it could be counter-productive. "We've got a big, rich institution in our midst," he said. "I'm struck by the degree to which we are beholden in this field to outside benefactors."

Dr Michael Woodin, a Fellow of Balliol College and Green Party councillor, questioned the nature of the "strings" attached to Mr Said's offer.

He said that although Mr Said had protested against claims in the past that his money had come from dubious sources, he had still made his fortune in the arms trade. "He is an arms deal negotiator, the middle man, if you like – the fixer," he said.

But the university's vice-chancellor, Dr Peter North, who proposed the special resolution to set up the school, said he was satisfied that the university's ethics committee had looked into the matter thoroughly and urged the congregation to vote for the proposal. "I believe that not only would we lose Mr Said's support if we didn't vote for this proposal," he added, "but lose the support of other benefactors and put at risk the good will of many others."

The proposal will now be put before a meeting of the Hebdomadal council, which will decide on Monday whether or not to put the matter to a postal vote.

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news

Wartime secret: How Churchill tried to blow up his own navy

Was invasion plan using warships floated on air bags just hot air?

Christopher Bellamy
Defence Correspondent

Even at the start of the Second World War, the accountants ruled. Sir David Nicholas, the retired former chairman of ITN, has discovered that an astonishingly bold scheme to invade the Baltic hatched by Winston Churchill before he became Prime Minister was never put into practice, partly because of the cost – £8m to £10m, or about £250m in today's money. The other reason? Probably, it was just plain mad.

The idea was to put a powerful naval force including three 28,000-ton battleships into the Baltic, attacking Germany from behind. To evade German defences in the Baltic approaches – the Kattegat, between Denmark and Sweden – Churchill proposed to send the massive warships through an unguarded but shallow channel. Normally, the channel would have been too shallow for the giant vessels, so Churchill came up with a brilliant idea: float them through buoyed up on airbags.

At the outbreak of the Second World War on 3 September 1939 Churchill was re-appointed First Lord of the Admiralty – a position with no modern equivalent but which gave him enormous power as political and military supremo of the Royal Navy. Sir David's research, which he described as "a kind of hobby", began several years ago when he was browsing through Churchill's Admiralty papers.

Like Churchill's ill-fated brainchild of the First World War, the Gallipoli campaign, the potential strategic advantages were enormous. Churchill's aim was to divert huge German naval and air forces into the Baltic, cut off Germany from the supplies of iron ore it received from Sweden, threaten Hitler from the rear and possibly bring Sweden and Norway into the war on the British side.

None of these materialised: the cost and complexity of the operation, and the risk to the force weighed against it. The first battleship to be earmarked, *Royal Oak*, was torpedoed the next month. But in the end, the decisive factor may not have been the cost, but the risk that a British fleet in the Baltic might start war with the Soviet Union – then a formal ally of Nazi Germany.

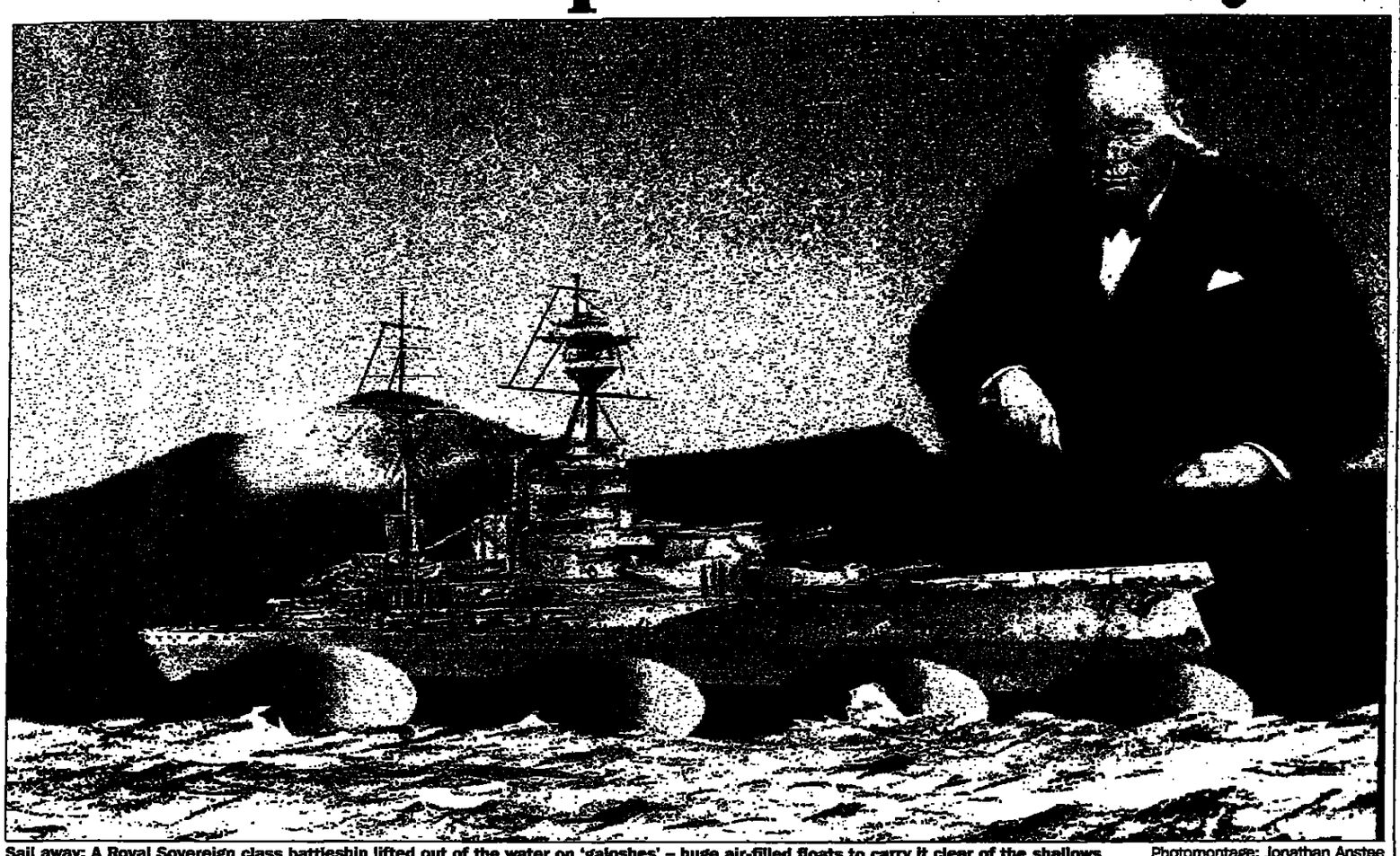
According to papers discovered by Sir David, Churchill's plan relied on reducing the 30ft draught of the 28,000-ton Royal Sovereign class battleships by 9ft so they could pass through "a certain channel where the depth is only 26 feet". Later correspondence reveals the channel was the "Vengeance Shoal", between Fyn Island and Zeeland.

"There are at present no guns commanding this channel", wrote Churchill, "and the states on either side (Sweden, Denmark) are neutral. Therefore there would be no harm in hoisting the armour belt [on the battleships, normally below the water-line] temporarily up to the water level."

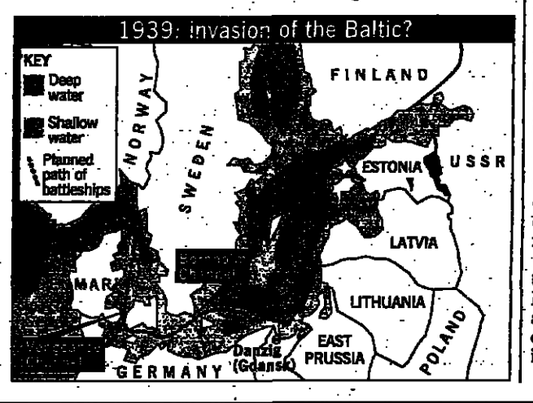
Churchill proposed to do this with "caissons" – air-filled floats, designed to lift the giant battleships nine feet. Codenamed "galoshes", they would be attached in two layers either side of the battleships, increasing their beam from 102 to 141 feet.

Churchill recognised that a naval force operating in the Baltic would be subject to heavy air attack. He also proposed reinforcing the armour on the battleships' decks, codenamed "umbrella". The force would also need a dozen smaller vessels with strengthened bows to withstand bumping into mines, and ships designed to take on enemy aircraft, including ships carrying barrage balloons.

During December, Operation Catherine was in effect cancelled. The First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Dudley Pound, wrote that "sending a fleet of surface ships into the Baltic is courting disaster". But On 9 April 1940, the shock news came that Hitler had invaded Norway. That morning Churchill received a telegram from Admiral Lord Cork, who had been in charge of Operation Catherine: "If only Catherine had gone ahead. What an ideal force we would have together to go right in and break up the German fleet. It would have been ready, according to your last date, nine days ago."



Sail away: A Royal Sovereign class battleship lifted out of the water on 'galoshes' – huge air-filled floats to carry it clear of the shallows Photomontage: Jonathan Anstee



Hooker tells of sales sprees

Graham Ball

The jury in the Old Bailey trial of an Inland Revenue inspector accused of bribery was told yesterday how he used the same shop to buy clothes for both his wife and his mistress.

Michelle Corrigan, a prostitute who had an affair with Michael Allcock, the tax inspector, told the court of her visits to an exclusive West End fashion store.

The shop, Joseph in Knightsbridge, central London, was a favourite of Mr Allcock's wife and he was anxious not to be recognised by staff while shopping with his girlfriend.

"We went there about half a dozen times. Michael used to shop for Sally [Mrs Allcock] at Joseph so I used to wait outside while he paid," said Miss Corrigan in reply to questions from John Black, for the prosecution.

Miss Corrigan, 30, a drinks vending machine manager from Portsmouth, was giving evidence for the second day in the trial, which is expected to last until Christmas. She told the court how she would go into the shop to pick out the designer clothes she wanted and leave Mr Allcock to pay either by cash or credit card.

Mr Allcock, 47, of Colchester, Essex, denies 13 corruption charges. Two businessman he was allegedly investigating are also in the dock. Hisham Alwan, 56, an oil consultant of Knightsbridge, and David Shamoon, a property developer of West London, deny four charges of attempting to bribe Inland Revenue officials.

Miss Corrigan, who was dressed in a smart black trouser suit, also said that her former lover would bring her back gifts from holidays he took with his family.

She said that she received her last gift from Mr Allcock about a month before the affair ended in the wake of an Inland Revenue investigation that started in September 1992.

Mr Justice Peter Beaumont, the judge, later censured the Evening Standard of London and the Daily Mail for what he described as inaccurate reporting.

The trial continues.

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Man who claimed dirty tricks by BA has case thrown out

Steve Boggan

A former policeman who alleged that British Airways had conducted a dirty tricks campaign against him after he complained of swallowing glass on one of its flights had his claim for damages thrown out of court yesterday.

John Gorman, 39, of Enfield, north London, failed to turn up for the case because of illness but he was later described by counsel for the airline as a fraudulent "professional claimant".

Central London County Court was told that Mr Gorman was in hospital in Majorca suffering from syncopal, a fainting condition, and was unable to attend the hearing. Robert Webb QC, representing BA, said there was no medical evidence to support his failure to turn up, even though a letter purporting to be from doctors treating Mr Gorman had been received.

Mr Gorman's fight with BA began in January 1993 when he claimed to have swallowed a piece of glass from a drink during a flight to New York. The airline denied liability and it later emerged that Mr Gorman had made a similar claim against Delta Airlines in 1991 when he accepted a $5,000 settlement. Successfully applying to have yesterday's case dismissed, Mr Webb said the airline had intended to call 11 witnesses and two experts to contest Mr Gorman's claims.

"We say it is a claim that is fraudulently made by a professional claimant," he said.

"Any injuries he suffered are minimal in the extreme – and an adjournment would be unfair to us."

Judge Nicholas Medawar said: "There does not seem to be any semblance of a medical certificate," and announced that he had no choice but to dismiss the case.

Mr Gorman was not legally represented as he had been conducting his own case. He is thought to have applied to the court for an adjournment by telephone, but only a written application would have been considered.

The hearing brings to an end a three-year period of claim and counter-claim during which Mr Gorman sought to link his case with the experiences of Richard Branson, who successfully proved that BA had conducted a dirty tricks campaign against his airline, Virgin. Last year, Mr Gorman, a BA shareholder, told the airline's annual meeting that he had been the victim of a series of physical attacks, threats and vandalism.

New Ridings head expels twelve pupils

Judith Judd and Esther Leach

The new head of the Ridings School in Halifax, closed because of assaults on teachers, last night expelled 12 pupils and temporarily excluded another 23.

Peter Clark, appointed acting head last week, made his first move to restore order at the Ridings as its governors met to discuss an inspection report which is expected to brand the school a failure.

Calderdale council said that a number of the excluded pupils had been involved in incidents which led to the school's closure.

Mr Clark's action, announced at a council press conference, goes a long way towards meeting the demands of teachers at the school who said originally that they would strike unless 60 pupils were expelled but then reduced the number to "around 20"

The inspection report, to be published today by Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, is understood to say that the school not only fails to control its pupils but also offers them poor teaching.

The school reopens today for fifth- and sixth-formers and later this week for other pupils under Mr Clark, head of a nearby grant-maintained school. It was closed by Calderdale last Thursday after inspectors said it was in danger of spiralling out of control.

Members of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers who have voted to strike will be at work today. They have not yet taken a final decision about strike action.

Nigel de Gruchy, its general secretary, said of the exclusions: "We are very pleased. This is a step in the right direction." Earlier, after a meeting with council officials he said that he was optimistic that the council was now meeting the union's concerns.

After meeting his members he said they viewed Mr Clark as "a positive, down to earth man with the right attitudes".

He added that some teachers accepted that they would be criticised in the report of the emergency inspection team which visited the school last week.

Mr de Gruchy said: "Everyone has been blamed and we must take our share of the responsibility but few have blamed the biggest factor of all, the outrageous behaviour of a hard core of unruly children and their families."

Michael Higgins, Calderdale's education chairman, said the authority could give no "blanket assurances" about expulsions. Each case would be treated on its merit. The school needed "to get its act together" and present a clear case to the independent appeals panel.

Failing schools are normally allowed 40 days to produce an action plan on how they intend to improve. However, Mrs Shephard is likely to use her power to shorten this time limit in the case of the Ridings.

If she is not satisfied with the plan, she can send in a team of education experts to take over from the head who decide whether it should close.

A governors' meeting last night at Manton Junior School in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, failed to resolve the dispute there over a disruptive 10-year-old which has closed the school.

The governors appealed to Nottinghamshire county council to intervene. Members of the NASUWT are refusing to teach the boy.

Prospects for settling the dispute look bleak. Fred Riddell, the education chairman, has written to Mrs Shephard saying he has no legal power to intervene. He said it would be wrong to take money away from other children to pay for one-to-one tuition for the 10-year-old in order to end the strike.

Putting heads together: Head teachers at the annual conference of the Girls' Schools Association in Brighton Photograph: Andrew Hasson

Independent schools show the way for national tests

Judith Judd
Education Editor

Independent schools are to introduce tests that may be a blueprint for national testing of all pupils, an association of headteachers said yesterday.

The 45-minute tests to be taken on entry to secondary school would be used as a basis for "value-added" exam league tables.

Both the Government and Labour have said they want value-added tests but neither has worked out a way of devising them. Schools say the league tables to be published this month are unfair because they do not make allowances for differences in intake.

The new tests may eventually be used in all private schools and would allow them to measure the progress their pupils have made between entering secondary school at the age of 11 or 13 and GCSE and A-level.

State school pupils now take national curriculum tests at seven, 11 and 14 and the Government is considering how to use the results to compile value-added tables. A paper considered by the annual conference of the Girls' Schools Association of top girls' independent schools in Brighton proposes a test that would measure IQ, potential, and achievement.

Roseanne Randle, chair of the association's education committee and head of Dame Alice Harpur School, Bedford, said: "What we are planning would be much better than the Government's national curriculum tests. We think the Department for Education would look at our tests with interest. They could lead the way to a sensible national scheme.

"The reason many independent schools are not taking part in national tests is that they don't think they are very valuable."

Some independent schools will pilot the tests next September and all may take part the following year. The Headmasters' Conference of top boys' public schools is also piloting the tests. Margaret Rudland, the association's new president and head of The Godolphin and Latymer School, Hammersmith, west London, said test results of individual pupils would not be released. "I see no value in ranking pupils on their entry to school," she added. In her presidential address Mrs Rudland attacked the idea, floated recently, of introducing a moral component to every A-level subject.

She said: "Honesty and integrity are more likely to be learnt through the systematic study of an objective discipline, such as mathematics, than by threatening its intrinsic integrity with a superficial overlay of morality. While arguing for breadth the association has always insisted on rigour in the sixth-form curriculum and we need to preserve the intellectual identity of each subject as a priority.

"Surely a really detailed study of a subject provides a kind of moral and cultural dignity of its own. Perish the thought that moral instruction will be included in every A-level course."

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politics

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

SCORING THE EXCHANGES

John Major 5/10

A narrow win because of Blair's long-windedness. These days Major takes pot shots at Blair's style rather than the issues. Tory benches were more firmly behind him than last week- health an easier subject for him than beef.

Tony Blair 4/10

Could put PM firmly on the spot (and score better) if he didn't insist on speech-making. After PM's questions, Ian Bruce (C. Dorset S), suggested that Blair should be limited to a bite of up to 200 words.

THEMES OF THE DAY

- The NHS (Tony Blair, Paddy Ashdown)
- Fall in family living standards (Dawn Primarolo, Lab. Bristol S)
- Manchester's regeneration (Sir Fergus Montgomery, C. Altrincham and Sale)
- Tory economic success (Nicholas Winterton, C. Macclesfield)
- Old people, fuel and Guy Fawkes (Margaret Ewing, SNP, Moray)

BLAIR'S ATTACK

"Will the Prime Minister admit... that the National Health Service is indeed in a state of crisis?" Major replied that the Conservatives had pledged to increase funding to the NHS, and Labour had not. Blair retorted money had been spent on bureaucracy. Exchanges quickly descended into speeches and statistic-swapping

GOOD DAY... ...BAD DAY

PADDY ASHDOWN
who asked with passion lacking in Blair's performance: "Does the Rt Hon Gentleman not realise that the crisis in the NHS is not next year, it is *now*"

MARGARET EWING
Tried to make a comic link between Guy Fawkes, bonfires and VAT on fuel. It was flimsy anyway, but the House of Commons on 5 November was not the place to try it.

MALAPROPISM OF THE DAY

John Major on the Conservatives' record on the NHS: "It is a pledge that people don't have to look in the mirror to see; they can look in our record."

UNANSWERED QUESTION

Dafydd Wigley, (PC, Caernarfon) - "Is the Prime Minister aware that if the linkage between pensions and earnings had not been broken in 1980, that level [of state pensions] would have been £83 a week?" Major replied that the Conservatives have "ensured that [the state pension] has kept up with increasing prices".

CREEP OF THE DAY

Nicholas Winterton, (C. Macclesfield) : "Would my Rt Hon Friend accept that one of the great success stories of the present Government is the fact that they've brought about a growing economy with low inflation and falling unemployment? And will my Rt Hon Friend now accept an invitation from me to visit *Macclesfield*... an area which is proud to be Tory?"

Compiled by Ben Summers

Lottery cash: Bottomley owns up

David Lister
Arts News Editor

The Government has admitted that some good causes that have been awarded cash from the National Lottery may not get their money.

Responding to recent reports in *The Independent*, Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, said yesterday there could be some cases of good causes which have been promised money in the full glare of publicity but would not actually receive the cash. She said: "There may be some, who for unforeseen reasons don't get their lottery money. But I would be surprised if any but a handful fail to deliver the criteria that have been set for them."

The Arts Council which distributes lottery money to the good causes, is warning that some beneficiaries may have to be "reassessed", and could yet not be given their promised money. This will happen if there is a cut in their annual revenue grant, which means that their artistic and business plans fail to satisfy the council that they could manage big redevelopment plans funded by lottery cash.

Such a scenario looks increasingly likely as Mrs Bottomley signalled yesterday that she had failed to convince the Treasury of the need to increase annual arts spending. At a private briefing, she emphasised the Government's priority was to keep pressure on public spending, and to concentrate on health, education and law and order.

She could not be "inviolate" from the public-spending crackdown, she said, but emphasised how she had fought to keep millions of pounds of lottery money going to the arts.

Among the institutions which could yet lose some or all of their promised lottery money are the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the Cambridge Arts Theatre and the Yorkshire Dance Centre in Leeds.

Ironically, Mrs Bottomley will today make a speech in Leeds singling out the Yorkshire Dance Centre as an example of how the lottery is transforming both the arts and the process of urban regeneration.

She will tell the British Urban Regeneration Association Conference: "Here in Leeds the Yorkshire Dance Centre's dance theatre project, Union City, has brought together the talents of 14 young people from inner-city areas of Leeds. Their latest production, *Paradise Vibe*, is a unique expression of the cultural diversity of young people ... in British cities and speaks directly to young people ...

"I am pleased that this year Yorkshire Dance received a National Lottery award for £606,000 and that work is now under way to equip and modernise the centre."

But the Arts Council has confirmed that the Dance Centre might not receive the money as a cut in annual revenue grant would adversely affect the artistic and business plans they submitted before being granted lottery money.

The Government's annual grant to the arts will be announced after the Budget, but projections are for a cut of at least £3m.

Blockade of the torture arms fair

Shocking message: Outside the arms fair at Sandown yesterday where electric shock equipment has been sold Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Jojo Moyes

About 300 protesters gathered outside Sandown race course in Surrey yesterday to demonstrate against an arms fair alleged to sell electric shock batons and torture equipment.

The protest, organised by the Campaign Against The Arms Trade, began early yesterday with blockades of entrances to the race course and continued through the day, disrpting traffic in the area.

More than 100 police were deployed and at one point around 30 protesters broke through to block access to the exhibition centre.

Olive Cassirer, a poppy-wearing retired headmistress, was one of many local people there. She had never been to a demonstration before. "This country should not be selling these kinds of armaments," she said.

Kay Lippold, a retired health visitor from Walton-on-Thames, was "ashamed" of the fair. "We used to be proud of what England made and exported," she said. "I don't see how anyone can be proud of this."

Organisers of the Copex 96 exhibition attempted to ward off demonstrators last month. One letter to the campaign warned that its demonstration could divert "precious Metropolitan Police manpower and resources" needed against "impending terrorist attacks".

A spokesman for Sandown said that United Race Courses, which owns the ground, was aware of the strength of feeling against the fair. "As far as we're concerned they are just like any other company who applies to have an exhibition here." But the owners were likely to "consider carefully" whether the fair would be held there next year.

The organisers had their own heavy security presence. Some guards were stationed on watch towers, videoing the protest. The guards said only "vetted" members of the press were allowed into the exhibition.

More than 100 companies were listed as exhibitors, including Birmingham Gun Makers, Antauga Arms and the *Arab Defence Journal*.

Many visitors chose not to discuss their reasons for attending, some shielding their faces. But Lior Caspi, visiting the Israeli delegation, said the protest was based upon a "misunderstanding".

"I think [people would understand better] if they could see that some of these things are legitimate for keeping the peace," he said while videoing the protesters.

The purpose of the fair was revealed last year by a Channel 4 documentary. After it was shown, Copex launched a libel action against the Campaign Against the Arms Trade. The case did not proceed, and the campaign is still trying to recover its costs.

Minister sees the future in a kiosk

John Rentoul
Political Correspondent

Kiosks offering "electronic self-service government" will be announced by ministers today. They are designed to take the paperwork out of paying taxes, renewing driving licences and applying for planning permission.

Touch-screen computer terminals in booths dubbed the "phone boxes of the future" are intended to give everyone direct access to government agencies and local council services.

"The technology exists to deliver self-service government to both the public and businesses," Roger Freeman, public services minister, said yesterday. He is publishing a Green Paper on the subject today.

Ministers will unveil three pilot schemes which will allow anyone to walk in off the street to their local library or into a pavement kiosk and use computer screens to call up information. The services will also be on the Internet.

Mr Freeman suggested it would help small traders who wanted to expand but were not sure about planning rules.

"If you're a plumber and you want to expand your workspace and need to know about the planning regulations, through this technology you can get the form and information from the Citizens' Advice Bureau," he said.

Ministers believe the computers will be no more complicated to use than hole-in-the-wall cash dispensers.

John Prescott, the deputy Labour leader, will unveil the Opposition's similar plans for open electronic government today, claiming that Labour would take a more active role in managing the technology and protecting public-sector workers against job losses.

The Government was criticised by Stephen Timms, Labour MP for Newham North-east, for having failed to generate enthusiasm for its scheme.

Mr Timms said that in America there had been a huge national debate on the subject. It had culminated in the US Telecom Act, passed this year, which contains a pledge to make advanced communications technology available to all Americans.

He contrasted the situation with that in Britain, where Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, gave up the leadership of a ministerial task force on information technology in June because of a conflict of interest with his Haymarket publishing company. It has signed a licensing deal with BSkyB, which hopes to carry the information superhighway on its digital television network.

Whereas the Deputy Prime Minister could have given the project the high profile it deserved, said Mr Timms, he was replaced by Viscount Cranborne, the Tory leader in the Lords. "That just about says it all, doesn't it? The technology for the 21st century in the charge of an hereditary peer."

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Meltdown: great flood begins as the biggest glacier goes liquid

Flow country: Flooding has begun on the black-sand plains around Iceland's Skeidara river, destroying bridges and threatening the coastal ring road Photograph: Jerry Lampen/Reuters

Water created by volcanic activity beneath Europe's largest glacier burst loose yesterday, sweeping away two bridges in its path. The giant sub-glacial lake in south-eastern Iceland had been filling up since a volcanic eruption at the beginning of last month.

Orn Egilsson, spokesman for Iceland's Civil Defence agency, said floodwater had destroyed the 1,233ft long Gigja Bridge as well as a 160ft bridge along the southern coast.

"The flooding is bad. The speed of the water is much more than people imagined," said Mr Egilsson. The flooding is in a remote area away from towns or farms and did not threaten human life, he added.

Civil defence authorities were concerned that a third bridge, the 2,950ft long Skeidarar, [illegible] destroyed by the force of the flooding.

"The water has rose to one end of the bridge," said Mr Egilsson.

The eruption of the Loki volcano is believed to have begun on 1 October and a column of steam was observed from the Vatnajokul glacier on the following day. By 12 October, the sub-glacial lake, Grimsvotn, was full to overflowing as a vast pool of melted water built up beneath the ice.

Iceland has been preparing for flooding of the uninhabited black-sand plains at the foot of the Vatnajokul glacier since the eruption.

A reporter with Icelandic National Radio said the flood waters had descended faster than forecast. "In three hours 6,000 cubic metres of water has come down. People can already see ice-blocks on the plains and they expect the bridges to disappear in a few hours," he said.

Emergency services said workers measuring water levels of the many rivers and tributaries crossing the plains had been forced to pull out of the area because of the speed of the torrent, which scientists had previously estimated could surge out at up to 80ft per second. "The water is running extremely fast down on to the sands," said a spokesman for the emergency services in Reykjavik, the Icelandic capital. "There's not so much we can do. We can just watch and wait."

Water was pouring into the ocean along the island's south coast, about 140 miles east of Reykjavik.

The eruption subsided in mid-October but the island has remained on alert for the expected floods, which could wash away the country's coastal ring road, and devastate the power supply system and telecommunication links.

Authorities have been preparing for the torrent by reinforcing dykes and building channels to steer the flood of water, debris and ice-blocks away from vulnerable areas.

The Vatnajokul glacier covers 3,200 sq miles and reaches a depth of 3,000 ft.

DAILY POEM

Ghost Ship

By Brian Patten

Dear ghost ship,
since you left this port,
your young crew hot with longings,
thier semen hardly dry on women's lips,
the years have shrunk to a single
fleck-foamed wave;
the one who fathered me,
long dead.

Though there is a harbour into which
it is best never to find the way,
a sea-route it is best
never to follow,
fate and chance meetings will always
undo reason.
It is the seal's breath
melts the ice floe,
the flip of a gull's wing
changes the wing's course.

Brian Patten's *Armada* (Flamingo, £5.99) is one of the most perfect and accessible poetry books of the year, writes Catriona Luke, Poetry Editor. The armada of the title, a sequence of poems about the death of his mother, forms part of wider thematic elegies some of the best of which rest upon sea-faring metaphors. He has always shared with Adrian Henri and Roger McGough the stamp of "Liverpool poet" – popularist in form, fierce in delivery – but this, his eighth collection, is undiluted, lyric poetry of immense range and humanity and highly recommended.

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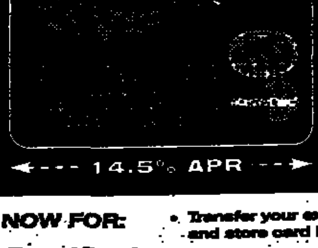

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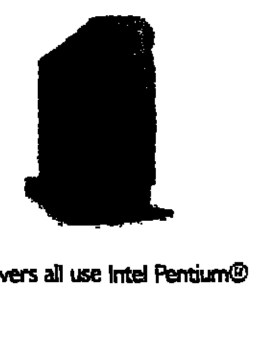

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20mph limits to put brakes on drivers

Christian Wolmar
Transport Correspondent

A big increase in the number of 20mph zones was recommended by a cross-party parliamentary road safety group yesterday.

The Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety said all speed limits should be reviewed and recommended 15 measures which it said Parliament and the motoring industry should undertake. The whole issue of speed had to be tackled if the number of accidents was to be reduced, it said in a pamphlet.

Britain has one of the worst records in Europe for child pedestrian deaths. According to transport ministers, 160 child pedestrians were killed in speed-related accidents in 1995. The council said in *Taking Action on Speeding* that reducing speed on the roads would be the single most effective way of lowering that toll.

Robert Gifford, its director, said: "Pedestrians hit at 20mph by a vehicle receive mostly minor injuries. At 30mph the majority are killed or seriously injured."

Speed killed car occupants too, he said. Their chances of being killed or seriously injured was five times greater at 40mph that at 20mph. The pamphlet said: "Speed is the biggest single contributory factor in road accidents." The council said it accepted a survey finding that 85 per cent of motorists broke speed limits "when the road is quiet".

But it said all limits should be reviewed with the idea of reducing the current 60mph maximum on trunk roads and creating many more 20mph zones in towns without the cumbersome engineering measures presently required.

The council said it accepted there was no single measure which could transform safety but called for a national strategy to tackle both excess speed (breaking the limit) and inappropriate speed (when a car is driven too fast for the conditions).

The Highways Agency was criticised for cutting funds for local safety schemes on trunk roads

The pamphlet said that a key problem was that drivers "do not perceive speeding to be a significantly criminal activity" and suggested a change in the driving test. Mr Gifford said: "Instead of focusing on technical things ... the test should concentrate on ensuring that drivers are aware of the dangers of speeding."

The council also called for a national data-base for speeding offences to help insurance companies.

M&S hitches up its underwear and steals some jewels to create over 2,000 new jobs

Bra new world: M & S, which sells more underwear than any other group, aims to attract custom by adding extras such as a new fitting service *Photograph: Tony Buckingham*

Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

Booming high street sales are prompting Marks & Spencer to take on an extra 2,250 staff to man bigger stores and boost customer service. Already Britain's biggest underwear retailer the group has increased its share of bra sales to well over a third by adding extras such as a fitting service. Marks is also for the first time offering made-to-measure suits at its City of London branch, which opened in September, and is now notching up sales of £1m a week.

The group already sells one in five off-the-peg suits bought in Britain and is launching its own jewellery to steal a march on high street jewellers, but Sir Richard Greenbury, the chairman, said only four shops in the group could offer the full Marks & Spencer range. He said there were 80 towns where they could double turnover if stores could be enlarged or resited.

"Customers are coming out of the trenches . . .We want to encourage them to shop with us as they seem more disposed to shop again and we want to offer them better service," said one executive.

The City, however, was not impressed and marked the shares down sharply, citing disappointing profits and the increased cost of more employees.

The new staff will be concentrated in élite stores that attract the most customers and record the highest returns. Among the company's 50 high-flyers are those in Newcastle upon Tyne and the City.

Recruitment has started and will be completed by March. Marks also took on an extra 1,500 personnel last year as sales picked up. Directors said they were being employed on tills, to answer queries and to ensure that stock was put on the shelves more quickly.

The announcement of more jobs coincided with the results for the six months to 28 September, which showed that M & S had improved profits to £430.1m compared with £385.4m in the same period last year. Sir Richard described this as a good performance with retail sales increasing by 8.4 per cent over the corresponding period last year. He stressed that consumer confidence seemed to be returning.

Sir Richard said the company wanted to improve sales and management had raised the the pace of new product development. He said the company had increased its market share in clothing and held its postion in foods. Underlying sales grew at 9.5 per cent with home furnishings up by 26.9 per cent.

The company hoped to double its presence in Spain and strengthen its position in France. The store in Dublin had made an excellent start and the company intended to expand in Hong Kong and open new franchises in South Korea and Australia.

Chic it usually is, Liberty it ain't

Melanie Rickey

The Contemporary Collections floor at Liberty it ain't, but M & S can be relied upon to provide fashionable clothes that women want to buy, and buy they do. It is rumoured that the Marble Arch store in central London alone brings in about £1m a day. The queues of women at the check-outs are testimony to that, their trolleys loaded with clothes, shoes and lingerie.

German and Arab tourists expect easy, affordable basics when they go but legions of British women know something more. When the catwalk dictates clothes in shades of chocolate, aubergine and olive green such as a velvet slim-fit shirt, a sheer devoré effect top or a fluid jersey tunic with matching trousers, they know they can go to M & S and not break the bank. Ask any fashion editor to throw open the doors to her wardrobe and you will find Marks & Spencer clothes nestling alongside those from Calvin Klein and Dolce e Gabbana. Alexandra Shulman, the editor of *Vogue*, said that her favourite item last season was an M & S "shantung" shirt.

Five years ago the store was regarded as one of the most unfashionable places to shop, women were reluctant to admit where their T-shirts and jumpers came from. But the image of the store has been transformed with the help of an aggressive design initiative and designers such as Paul Smith and Betty Jackson.

But its strong push to capture the younger more affluent market has caused the company no end of trouble. Last year it was accused by Liza Bruce, a swimwear designer, of copying one of her ideas. The swimsuits looked nearly identical, the main difference was price: Bruce's cost £120, the M & S version, £21. Ms Bruce has since gone out of business. Jeff Banks, a fashion designer and presenter of *The Clothes Show* television programme, also accused the company of copying a distinctive pocket design. The store agreed to pay a six-figure compensation sum.

Marks & Spencer has since set up a £1m fighting fund to combat claims that it has copied designs. Despite this the company goes from strength to strength. The news that it will employ 2,000 more staff to improve customer care does not mean you will have assistants breathing down your neck (there will never be high pressure selling strategy in store) it simply means there will be more stock on the rails, a full range of sizes on offer and a faster route through the check-out back onto the street.

Trees and plenty of paint revive the blasted Arndale

Jonathan Glancey

Manchester has chosen the most conservative of five short-listed teams to rebuild its city centre after the IRA bomb. Edaw, a local consortium of architects, engineers, planners and builders, plans to keep the devastated Arndale Centre, although it will be clad in a coat of new colours and pierced with pedestrian walkways.

The design team plans to create new tree-lined thoroughfares, or avenues, leading to a host of new leisure and entertainment centres. These will include a winter garden near the site of the bomb-damaged bus station and a new Trocadero behind the facade of the landmark Maxwell House building. The core of the plan is a broad avenue leading through some of the areas worst affected by bomb damage; this will pass through a new city centre park.

The Edaw team will need more than a little magic to bring new life into the heart of the city blown apart by a 3,300lb bomb on 15 June. The bomb killed no one but caused an estimated £500m damage, wrecking more than 1,000 square metres of shops and offices.

In their hands: Winners and design Photograph: News Team

Announcing the winning team yesterday, Sir Alan Cockshaw, chairman of the taskforce set up to rebuild the city, said: "Our aim is to create the very best city centre in the whole of Europe, but most importantly one which the people of Manchester can be proud of."

Whether or not the people of Manchester are proud of the famously ugly Arndale Centre, which took the brunt of the blast, Sir Alan did not say.

Responding to a questionnaire after the bomb, Mancunians complained of a city centre that was "dead as a place where people live"; Edaw has replied with plans for 240 new homes in the rebuilt city centre. Richard Leese, leader of Manchester City Council, said the project would create "a simple but memorable city centre, clearly deliverable within the time-scale and budget". The time-scale is the end of 1998; the budget has yet to be decided, although Edaw has an initial fund of £22m to draw on. Millennium funding is to be sought.

If the design is conservative, that is because the city wants to get back on its feet as quickly as possible. The judges' choice has made it clear that what was wanted was a team and a design that could give birth to a new centre on a tight budget and in the shortest possible time.

It is significant that none of the five design teams short-listed for the competition included big-name architects, despite the fact that the Richard Rogers Partnership, for example, is currently working on a facelift for Shanghai, and both Lord Rogers and his former partner, the Genoese architect Renzo Piano, are redesigning Potsdammer Platz, the Piccadilly Circus – or Manchester Piccadilly – of central Berlin.

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Boris Yeltsin, who ran Russia on half a heart, puts his fate at last in the hands of surgeons

Finest hour: Yeltsin takes to a tank and urges Muscovites to resist a coup against President Mikhail Gorbachev

Waiting in vain: No explanation is given after Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds is left on the tarmac

The clown: US President Bill Clinton is reduced to tears of laughter by Yeltsin at the UN's 50th anniversary

Bad boy: Yeltsin sexually harrasses a secretary at a press conference, further tarnishing his reputation

Dancing bear: Groovy times on the campaign trail as Yeltsin creates a stir in the 1996 presidential election

Paying the price: Exhausted after the election, Yeltsin appears on TV to explain his need for a heart operation

Crucial decision in next few days as team gambles on whether to take president off respirator

Phil Reeves and Helen Womack
Moscow

Boris Yeltsin has entered a critical 48-hour period when surgeons will get a clearer idea of the success of the multiple heart by-pass operation on which his presidency, and the future of Russia, so crucially depends.

Doctors will today decide whether they can take him off a respirator following the seven-hour operation, during which they stopped the President's heart for 68 minutes. After that comes another crucial moment – discovering whether he can again control his own breathing. Five hours after the the operation the President, 65, recovered consciousness and opened his eyes, said Yevgeny Chazov, who for years treated Leonid Brezhnev.

The announcement came after a day in which, for the first time, the world was given information about a complex operation on a Russian leader, and heard from surgeons who worked on the organ that has obsessed so many for so long.

Renat Akchurin, head of the 12-strong team, said the operation had gone well but disclosed that it had involved "much more" by-passes than the three or four anticipated, which suggests that the President's heart was more diseased than was realised.

There had been no unexpected problems but Mr Yeltsin still faced the "very important stage" of post-operative treatment. The first few days after a coronary by-pass are critical, as they establish whether any damage to other organs has been inflicted during surgery.

But Dr Akchurin said that, "touch wood", Mr Yeltsin may decide to sign a decree today or tomorrow taking back the powers of office he temporarily transferred to his Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Michael DeBakey, the American cardiologist who led US and German advisers, said the operation was a "complete success" and predicted Mr Yeltsin would be able to perform his duties in a "perfectly normal fashion". He may be active long after his second term expires in 2000 – most studies show almost three-quarters of by-pass patients are leading a normal life 10-15 years after the operation, said the surgeon.

For Mr Yeltsin's government and supporters in the West, the operation was not before time. It followed 15 months in which he had two and probably three, heart attacks. In his absence, his entourage jockeyed for power, while the country was buffeted by political and financial crises.

Yesterday saw evidence of that when hundreds of thousands took to the streets for a day of strikes and rallies, largely over wage arrears.

But it will be some time before Mr Yeltsin can tackle these issues. Although Dr Akchurin said he may be able to begin work as soon as next week, he will be, at best, a part-time president until Christmas.

The first sign the operation was pending came early yesterday, when the President's motorcade left the sanatorium where he was staying and headed for the Moscow Cardiological Centre. It was exactly two months after he confirmed to television viewers what had long been suspected: he had heart disease and needed surgery. Doctors later diagnosed one blocked and three partially blocked arteries.

His surgeons said they decided to go ahead when he was in "optimum" condition – rid of early problems with an over-active thyroid, internal bleeding and anaemia. But its timing, on the day of the US election, was stage-managed, as was media coverage. The surgeons' conference was restricted to what aides called a "golden group" of 100 correspondents, a fraction of the thousands in Moscow at present.

To the indignation of the President's staff, the world was denied news of the start of the operation for 30 minutes, because Russian agencies distrusted the initial announcement and wanted to check. But the operation's progress was thereafter reported by Russian media throughout the day.

Mr Yeltsin's spokesman said he joked with doctors as he went into the operating theatre. But last night, as they awaited the outcome of their work, the mood was more subdued. A number of critical questions remain. For instance, has the operation caused any brain damage? Such issues will be preying on the mind of Mr Yeltsin's wife, Naina: "Pray God that it will work out okay," she said after the operation.

She was, she said, "very worried, of course".

Under the knife at Moscow's finest

Helen Womack
Moscow

As President Boris Yeltsin went under the surgeon's knife yesterday, Alexei Nesterov, an ordinary Russian citizen, was nervously awaiting a similar heart bypass operation.

After he suffered his second heart attack, a month ago, doctors told him he should undergo the operation, which is routine in the West but still rarely performed in Russia. "To be frank, I wasn't keen. They had to persuade me," he said. "You see, I was a doctor myself and we doctors are all cowards. We know that 2 per cent of patients die during this kind of surgery."

But Dr Nesterov, at 62 three years younger than Mr Yeltsin, had no complaints about the standard of care he was receiving in Moscow's Botkin Hospital. "Of course no specialist from Texas will fly out to advise in my case," he joked. "But I am perfectly satisfied with how I am being looked after here. The doctors are excellent, I am sharing a nice little ward with only one other person and they are feeding me well."

The 1,800-bed Botkin Hospital, founded 85 years ago with money donated by a pre-revolutionary Russian merchant, comes as a pleasant surprise after all the horror stories one hears about the state of Russian medicine.

True, the hospital is prestigious, being the centre to which foreigners are always referred if they fall sick in Moscow. But the majority of its patients are Russians receiving state treatment, free of charge if they are residents of the capital or the surrounding region.

"Five years ago, when the West was sending humanitarian aid, things were difficult," said Vladimir Yakovlev, the hospital's chief doctor. "We really did need help then. But the economic situation is slowly improving. We are getting modern equipment and have all the medicines we need."

The cardiology department, newly renovated, is the showpiece of the hospital. The doctor in charge, Shamil Arifulin, offers me a cigarette, then realises he has perhaps blundered, and there is no toilet paper in the lavatories.

But the 12-bed unit gleams and shines with the latest computerised equipment from America. The department deals with emergency cases brought in by ambulance and examines other heart patients in a 50-bed unit. But if they need surgery, they go to other hospitals.

Dr Nesterov will not have to wait for his operation and afterwards, he will be sent to a sanatorium in the woods outside Moscow to convalesce. "It won't be Barvikha [Mr Yeltsin's sanatorium] but it could be Peredelkino, you know, where Pasternak lived, and that's just as good," he said.

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PM has charge of nuclear arsenal

Phil Reeves
Moscow

It was a moment for which the Kremlin has been planning for weeks. Just before surgeons operated on him, President Boris Yeltsin signed Decree 1,534, transferring his powers to his Prime Minister. At 7am yesterday Viktor Chernomyrdin became President of the Russian Federation, with command of the so-called nuclear button.

Although the post is temporary, he was well groomed. Nine days ago the NTV channel broadcast a profile aimed at proving he is not the dull bureancrat he might appear but a thinking, feeling, red-blooded Russian male. A man, in other words, the public could trust.

He was shown playing billiards, riding a jet-ski, playing an accordion. He confided he liked attractive women and hunting (Russian politics are unclouded by political correctness) and even admitted enjoying the occasional vodka.

For many, it was the most charismatic performance they had seen by a prime minister known more for his reliability than his water-sport skills.

The former gas-industry executive has been one of Mr Yeltsin's most trusted allies during his four years as Prime Minister and his brief reign may be a warm-up for greater things. He has a powerful constituency in the energy lobby and is tipped to be the establishment's candidate in the next presidential poll. But if he is to win round Russia, he may have to do a lot more accordion playing.

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international

President ousts Bhutto with army backing

Jubilant: Women members of the Mohajir National Movement celebrate Ms Bhutto's downfall in Karachi yesterday. The party has accused her government of killing hundreds of Mohajirs over the last three years Photograph: Reuter

Prime Minister accused of bunglings and nepotism, writes **Tim McGirk**

Lahore — The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto, was toppled yesterday in a swift constitutional coup with full backing from the military.

The President, Farooq Leghari, for decades a loyal friend of the Bhutto family, dissolved the country's national and provincial assemblies at 1am yesterday morning.

Earlier on Monday, Mr Leghari had spent six hours trying to persuade her to resign, insisting that her bunglings and nepotism had rotted out her 34-month old government. "This is your way of getting rid of us," Ms Bhutto reportedly retorted. "No, I won't do it."

Just as Ms Bhutto was preparing to sleep, troops closed in on her Islamabad mansion. Her telephone lines were cut, along with those of her cabinet ministers and advisers. The ex-prime minster spent yesterday under virtual house arrest.

The plug was also pulled on all cellular phones across the country. Throughout Pakistan, the army and the para-military Rangers guarded television and radio installations and sealed off airports. Ms Bhutto's controversial husband and investment minister, Asif Zardari, 45, was arrested as he dined in the governor's old colonial palace in Lahore. Mr Zardari was one of 29 politicians and top police officials detained. Few Pakistanis are sorry to see Ms Bhutto go. Her husbandwas probably the most hated man in Pakistan, and Ms Bhutto had come to be as detested inside her country as she was respected abroad for combating the rise of Islamic militancy in South Asia.

Her exit in disgrace may finish off the Bhutto dynasty. It has certainly fractured her Pakistan People's Party, perhaps beyond repair.

Ms Bhutto's biggest mistake, many Pakistanis believe, was marrying Mr Zardari back in 1987. A bumptious feudal lord, Mr Zardari was accused by political foes of massing not millions, but hundreds of millions, through corruption and kickbacks, but none of the accusations has yet to stick. Army intelligence yesterday morning flew him to an undisclosed location in Islamabad where he is believed to be facing interrogation. Several newspapers claim Zardari secretly bought a £2.5m mansion in Surrey and stocked it with furniture and antiques sent from Karachi in crates labelled mangoes.

Worst of all, Mr Zardari has been named as a suspect in the murder on 20 September of Ms Bhutto's younger brother, Murtaza. It was the killing of Murtaza at a police roadblock on a dark empty street in Karachi, that seems to have convinced Mr Leghari to end her reign. Ms Bhutto and her brother were political rivals, yet few suspect her of complicity; on the night of the murder, she rushed into the Karachi hospital barefoot, out of respect, and her cries of grief spilled from the hospital morgue for 45 minutes before she was finally pulled off her brother's bloodied corpse.

A few days later, Ms Bhutto enraged Mr Leghari by "insinuating" that the presidency and secret services had plotted to assassinate Murtaza – in a vain attempt, diplomats in Islamabad said, to deny that her husband might have been embroiled in the murder. Ms Bhutto later apologised to the president, but the damage was done.

After obtaining sanction and assistance from the army chief, General Jahangir Karamat, Mr Leghari sacked Ms Bhutto. Mr Zardari may face criminal charges for his alleged involvement in Murtaza's death. Murtaza's Lebanese-born widow, Ghinva, said recently: "My husband used to call him "Asif Baba and the 40 Thieves". Nobody but my husband dared to confront him."

Murtaza's assassination was just one in a long list of grievances used by Mr Leghari to justify Ms Bhutto's dismissal. The president accused her government of corruption, subverting the courts, and carrying out extra-judicial arrests and kidnapping in the southern port of Karachi, where security forces are trying to quell unrest among a large community of Muslim immigrants from India, known as Mohajirs. To celebrate Ms Bhutto's downfall, Mohajir men danced in Karachi's lanes and fired off Kalashnikovs.

Mr Leghari named Malik Meraj Khalid, an intellectual and former assembly speaker, as Prime Minister to head a pared-down caretaker cabinet of technocrats, a newspaper editor, a lawyer, a retired general, and two politicians, one from Bhutto's party and one from the opposition, Pakistan Muslim League. The President promised elections on 3 February, once the corrupt politicians have been rooted out.

But Mr Leghari's statement seemed to be a sinister echo of a past promise made by the late dictator, General Zia ul-Haq. The general had given identical assurances when he grabbed power in 1977 and held on for 11 years, until he was killed in a mysterious plane crash. But friends of Mr Leghari credit him with a sense of duty and a long memory: Throughout his long career in politics, he was several times jailed for crusading against military regimes.

Corruption is so pervasive that some Pakistanis doubt that Mr Leghari and his vigilantes can succeed. Sherry Rehman, editor of a Karachi news magazine, the *Herald*, said: "There's widespread anxiety over how genuine this clean-up of politicians will be. The same old faces keep coming back." Some of Leghari's new cabinet appointees are suspect. Many of the politicians arrested immediately after Ms Bhutto's fall were from the Pakistan People's Party, raising fears that Mr Leghari's sweep missed qually corrupt politicians from other parties.

Imran Khan, a cricket star turned political activist, welcomed Ms Bhutto's removal, as did Nawaz Sharif, ex-prime minister and leader of the conservative opposition party, the Pakistan Muslim League, and the right-wing Muslim party, the Jamat-e-Islami.

Under Ms Bhutto's command, the country has sunken into near penury. The Karachi street wars scared off many foreign investors and often closed the port.

Visiting businessmen complained that few government deals went through without having to pay off huge bribes. "One cabinet minister asked for three bribes. We gave him the first two. But the greed was too much for us," said one Western energy consultant.

According to some economists, inflation unofficially had climbed to above 20 per cent and was still rising. With no moral authority at the top, corruption has seeped down to all levels of Pakistani society. While poor Pakistanis were suffering the economic squeeze, the local press were busy with exposés on the Bhuttos' new mansion in England and on Mr Zardari's expensive hobby of collecting polo ponies.

> Detested in Pakistan, she may finish off the Bhutto dynasty with her exit in disgrace

In late October, stories began to circulate that Mr Zardari planned to flee into exile. It turned out that he had only left for a short medical check-up in London, but the false rumour dented the Bhutto family's credibility even further. Even Mr Zardari's decision to shave off his rakish moustache was seen as proof he was plotting to slip out of the country incognito.

Did Mr Zardari order Murtaza's assassination? Undeniably, the two hated each other. But at least two other theories on Murtaza's death are making the rounds: first, that the Karachi police at the roadblock were provoked into firing by Murtaza and his bodyguards. That is the official version, but no police died in the supposed shoot-out.

A senior police officer and key witness was later found dead of a gunshot wound; police insisted it was suicide, but a coroner's report proved this would have been a feat of considerable gymnastics as he had been shot from five feet away.

The second theory is one Ms Bhutto clings to, that elements within the Pakistani security forces killed Murtaza and are trying to pin the blame on Mr Zardari as a way to trigger her demise. If Ms Bhutto is correct, than her foes' plot has worked.

Toppled: Many Pakistanis think Ms Bhutto's marriage to Mr Zadari in 1987 was her biggest error Photograph: AFP

Extra

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Pax Americana: US marines charge off a beach in South Korea yesterday during annual exercises near the North Korea border. South Korean forces exchanged fire with North Koreans Photograph: AP

Suicide of sex-row QC shocks Australia

Robert Milliken on a new twist in a royal commission's inquiry into child abuse and corruption

Sydney – *Australian politics were in turmoil yesterday after a former judge committed suicide following allegations in parliament related to an inquiry into paedophiles.*

David Yeldham, 67, who formerly sat in the New South Wales Supreme Court, was found dead in his car at his home in the up-market Sydney suburb of Hunters Hill. Police said there were no suspicious circumstances.

A QC who was married with three children and had four grandchildren, he had been shaken after Franca Arena, a Labor member, made a pointed reference to him in the New South Wales state parliament last week when she attacked the inquiry by a royal commission and accused it of giving preferential treatment to "prominent people".

Mrs Arena has been waging a campaign against paedophilia, claiming that top people in Australia have been spared serious examination during the commission's investigation.

She asked in the Legislative Council in Sydney last week: "What about former Supreme Court judge, David Albert Yeldham – was he, or was he not, interviewed?"

She added: "I am not insinuating anything about the character of the former judge by naming him. I am only saying that this is an example of a person who appears to have been given preferential treatment when, for instance, Anglican and Catholic bishops were not."

Mr Yeldham instantly defended himself. "I am not a paedophile, I've never been a paedophile and I hate paedophilia," he said. "A terrible mistake must have been made by someone."

Retiring in 1990 after 16 years on the bench, Mr Yeldham had taken up a post as director of the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.

Mrs Arena has never produced any evidence to substantiate her insinuations, which sent shockwaves through Australia's political establishment. Even before Mr Yeldham's suicide, MPs from both sides of politics, including Bob Carr, New South Wales Prime Minister and Labor leader, attacked her for abusing parliamentary privilege.

Poisoned by fumes: David Yeldham, named by an MP

The suicide has brought widespread calls for him to sack her. Dressed in black, and speaking in sombre tones, she appeared before the press yesterday and declared: "I have acted according to my conscience."

Mr Yeldham's death has also focused attention on one of Australia's most sensational, lengthy, controversial and most expensive public inquiries. The royal commission, conducted by Mr Justice James Wood, another Supreme Court judge, began in 1994 after political pressure forced the then New South Wales government to set up an inquiry into corruption in the state's police.

After exposing shocking corruption among top echelons, the commission turned its attention to alleged police protection of paedophile rackets. But there have been strong attacks on the commission's methods. John Marsden, a prominent lawyer, said at least nine people had committed suicide as a result of the inquiry.

significant shorts

US soyabean ship sailing into a storm

Ideal Progress, the first ship carrying genetically modified soyabeans from the US, was due to dock at Hamburg, where it faced protests.

US harvesters of the beans, developed by Monsanto corporation to be resistant to one of its herbicides, are not separating them from normal ones and products made with them, including 30,000 foods, will not be labelled as such. Yet a survey for Greenpeace says 73 per cent of German consumers would avoid such products for now.
Charles Arthur

Nicaragua tense as poll dispute deepens

Tension rose in Nicaragua after the Sandinista National Liberation Front urged supporters to protest against alleged electoral fraud. Presidential elections were held 17 days ago but the result is yet to be given. In its strongest statement since the election, the Front also called for voting to be re-run in more than half the country. The statement raised fears of clashes between its supporters and those of the conservative Liberal Alliance, which appeared to have won the vote. *Phil Davison*

Six tried over Baltic killings

Six Lithuanian former Communist leaders went on trial over the Soviet attempt to crush the independence movement and the killing of 13 people at the storming of the Vilnius television tower by Soviet troops in January 1991. If convicted, they could face the death penalty.
Adrian Bridge

Sentence plea by activist

The dissident Wang Dan appealed against his sentence of 11 years' jail for plotting to overthrow the government, a court official said, declining to elaborate. Peking Number One Intermediate People's Court took less than four hours last Wednesday to convict and sentence Mr Wang.
Reuter – Peking

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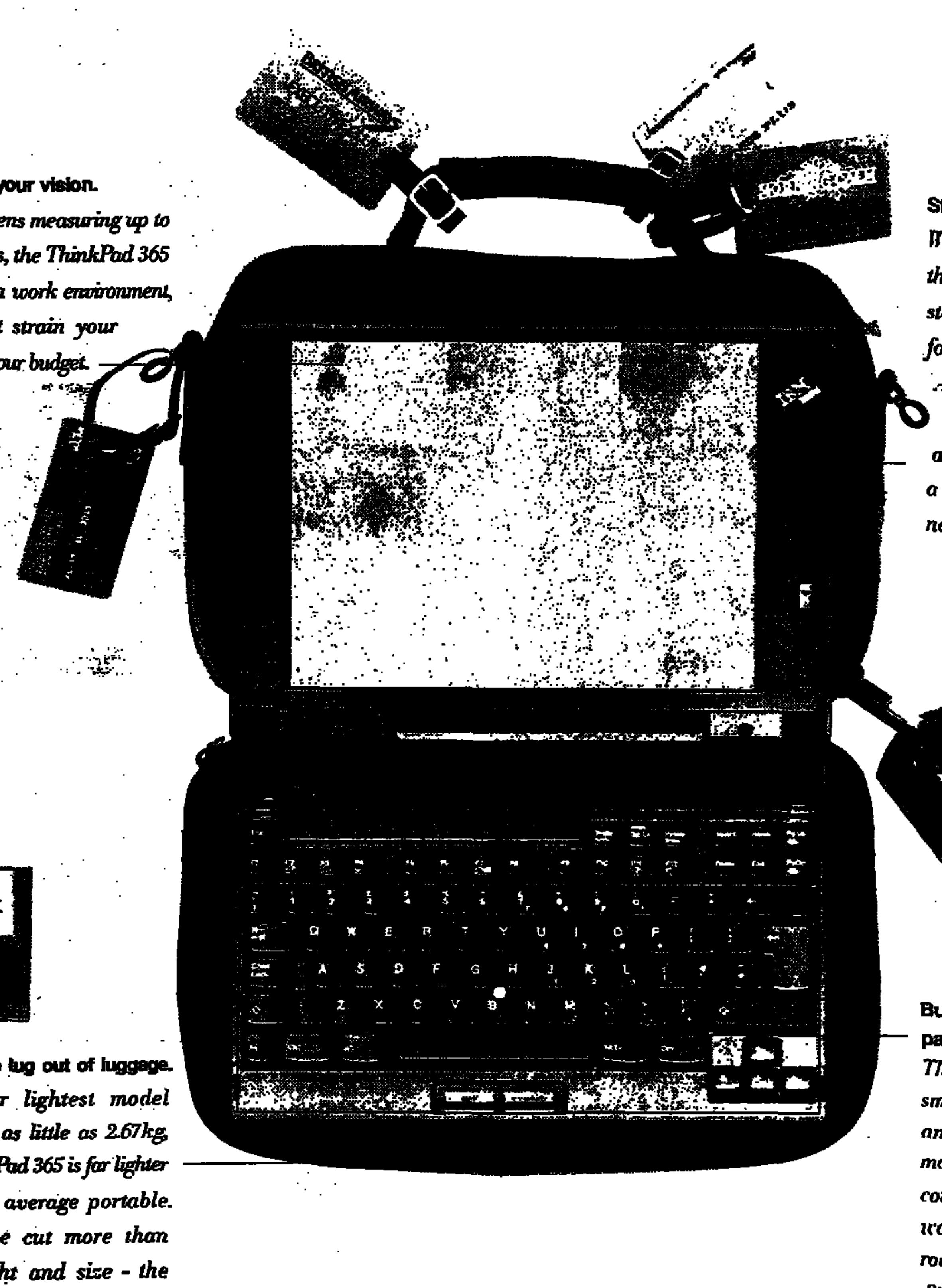

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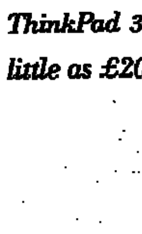

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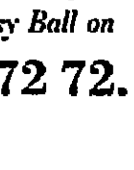

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Despite the sleaze, Clinton heads for

President shows fine taste for re-election

David Usborne
Little Rock, Arkansas

Everything was ready, just in case. There was suspense in the steaming kitchen of Doe's Place yesterday morning but it had little to do with whether their most famous (and famously greedy) customer, Bill Clinton, was going to win. Nobody doubted that. Rather, it was over whether he would answer their invitation and drop by. The meat patties and cheese squares were ready for cooking and Lucille, the President's favourite chef, had come in with her hair perfectly coiffed.

"He hasn't replied yet, but he's a busy man and we can forgive him that," said Lucille, bearing a gold-toothed grin. Of one thing, she is sure: if he does comes, he will eat and he will eat well. If it's lunchtime it will be cheeseburgers and fries, if it is for dinner, steak and shrimp. "He's still got a good appetite. A *real* good appetite."

Four years ago, when the votes for Clinton and Bush were being counted, there was real, heart-gulping suspense here. Would their man knock out the incumbent? If he did, what would he bring? Honour or disappointment? National healthcare or muddle?

Yesterday there was only syrupy anticipation – whatever the postmortems of the first term might say. Anticipation that the once-obscure governor of this still dog-patch state would achieve re-election – the first Democrat to be so rewarded since Franklin Roosevelt in 1944. And anticipation of monster-partying. Eight blocks down from Doe's, men in raked the last leaves from around the Old State House, the backdrop for the expected victory speech. And few blocks further down, the bandstand was being prepared for the assorted stars in town to honour Mr Clinton. Top of the bill: crooner Tony Bennett.

The President was playing coy most of yesterday, making only one pre-result appearance – to cast his vote with the First Lady at the city's now disused Union Station. Perhaps he was resting his voice and his emotions from the thrill of his final six-day swing through 18 states. More likely, he was simply girding for the exultant moment last evening that promised him sweet victory.

The final moment of what must surely be the final campaign of his life came at Little Rock's Adam's Field airport when *Air Force One* finally bore the President home at 2.26 am. In a Guy Fawkes celebration all of their own, the throng of his hardiest supporters lit a blizzard of sparklers, and strained to catch a glimpse of their leader.

We did not have to wait long. Before even his aides get to summon the plane steps, there was the President sneaking a quick peek out at the crowd, like a child actor cracking open the stage curtain to look for a parent in the audience. In a minute is descending the steps with Hillary and Chelsea.

There follows a few minutes of vintage Clinton.. In this moment he is the essence of candidate Bill, back on home turf, finding the love of his fans and drinking it in giant draughts.

It should, of course, be a homecoming marred by some acknowledgement of the dreadful damage that his term has wrought on Arkansas's élite arising from Whitewater.

But back at Doe's, the owner, George Eldridge, is indignant that the subject of Whitewater need even be raised. "People in this town are just sick of hearing about it. What is so ridiculous is that the President has never been even the slightest bit motivated by money or greed. But the Republicans can never let go. They just can't stand the fact that he is going to be President again".

Happy families: Bill Clinton kissing his daughter after his last rally in Sioux Falls, North Dakota Photograph: AP

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Struggle for Congress in the limelight

John Carlin
Washington

The presidential election having been ruled a no-contest almost from the moment Bob Dole won the Republican nomination, it is the elections for Congress that have been generating all the suspense.

Republican leaders in the Senate and the House made plain in recent weeks that they were concentrating their energies on the congressional cause more than on the race for the White House.

What is at stake, at one level, is whether a Clinton presidency will be more hamstrung than presidents usually are by an uncooperative legislature.

Such is the nature of the Constitution, fixated as the Founding Fathers were on preventing a return to "tyranny", that even if the Republicans lose both houses by a slender margin, their capacity to paralyse White House initiatives will remain great.

Where interest resides more in political terms is whether Congress would be more or less energised to pursue investigations into Mr Clinton's alleged improprieties, including Whitewater and charges that the White House traded favours for Asian companies for campaign contributions.

A Republican defeat in the House would wipe the grin off Newt Gingrich's face, whose removal from the Speakership would be the demise of his career, and would bring a smile of relief from Mr Clinton.

Not that investigations would be nipped in the bud, but with the President's allies holding all the committee chairs in the House, notably the committee on ethics, he would have reason to believe that the impending blows would be softer than they otherwise might have been.

The Republicans set the precedent with their investigations of the past year into the record of Mr Gingrich, who is alleged to have engaged in numerous abuses to steer money improperly to his party campaign coffers. First, the investigations were not conducted with the alacrity and rigour that might have been expected had the Democrats been in charge. Second, the findings so far have been hedged in ambiguous language, allowing him the openings to retort that he has been more sinned against than sinning.

It is in the reasonable hope of receiving gentler treatment from a Democrat-led House that Mr Clinton will have been watching the outcome of the congressional elections with more than usual presidential interest.

As to legislation, members of Congress on both sides have been saying privately for much of this year that they have learnt their lesson from Mr Gingrich's failed "Contract with America". Any attempt to introduce radical changes, to set about a "revolution", are frowned upon by a fundamentally conservative electorate wary of politicians who seek to alter the *status quo*. The re-election quest eternally remaining uppermost in their minds, members of Congress have been warning their friends in Washington not to expect anything big these next two years.

> A Republican defeat in the House would wipe the grin off Newt Gingrich's' face

Where the public is demanding significant change, however, is in the area of campaign-finance reform, which has assumed such national importance that it has ceased to be a partisan political issue. It will be intriguing to see whether Congress does finally seek to address this cancer at the heart of American politics, especially as this time round they can be certain of the President's support, for Mr Clinton will not be required to raise campaign money again.

If legislation does not go through, as it may well not do, since congressional incumbents find it much easier to raise funds than their challengers, the one thing that may be said for sure is that the public's already profound discontent with their elected leaders will only deepen. All the more so if Congress manages successfully to sully President Clinton's historical name.

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sweet victory and the history books

Cynicism wins by a huge consensus

John Carlin
Washington

The conventional view of the US election is that the Artful Dodger, in Gore Vidal's description of Bill Clinton, defeated the guileless codger. That the slick, unprincipled politics of the president were always going to prove too much for good old plain-spoken Bob Dole.

Hence the question, thundered from Republican pulpits: "Whatever became of honour, decency, integrity in American national life?"

The answer is ready at hand. If you look closely at the thousands upon thousands of polls and political focus group sessions that have been conducted the length and breadth of America in the last year, you will discover that the runaway winner of the 1996 election was never going to be Mr Clinton or Mr Dole, Democrats or Republicans. The winner, by a huge bipartisan consensus, was cynicism, a perception that American politics are dirty, that politicians are crooks and liars.

> The economy is doing fine, Mr Clinton looks good, so why go for an out-of-touch old man?

Mr Dole, when he finally got around to defining his electoral message, sold himself as a man of character, a man of his word – the president who would have restored upright values to the White House.

The message did not resonate because while the Republican faithful were all too ready to believe it, the nation as a whole did not. Or rather, they chose to see the moral difference between the two men as one of degree. The economy is doing fine. Mr Clinton looks good and talks well. So why go for an old man who, for all his heroism in the war, has, after all, spent the last 36 years of his life playing the sordid Washington game?

The electorate's logic has been driving conservative commentators to despair. William Safire, the *New York Times* columnist, has written about nothing else this last month, deploring "the absence of outrage" at the "shamelessness" of the Clinton administration.

The truth that many of the political partisans in Washington choose to ignore is that the public *is* outraged – but at both sides. Mr Dole might be the better man, but he inhabits the same cesspool as the president and has played by similar rules.

Let us consider briefly the litany of Mr Clinton's sins. There is Whitewater and our knowledge that he fraternised, at least, with a cabal of Arkansas thieves; there is Travelgate and the allegations that Hillary Clinton fired the staff of the White House travel office and replaced them with her chums from little Rock; there are the hundreds of FBI files the White House procured in what might have been an attempt to accumulate dirt on political rivals.

More recently, and this has been at the heart of Mr Safire's raging indignation, there have been reports of illicit campaign fund-raising in the Far East. And, hovering over everything – and far more familiar to the general public – there has been the president's near-inhaling and his history of philandering.

Now let us look at the record of Mr Dole. As for philandering, Mr Dole is no saint. Possibly, if the unverified stories are true, Mr Clinton has been more prolific, but Mr Dole did have an affair some 30 years ago, towards the end of his first marriage to a nurse at the hospital where he recovered from his grievous war wounds after the Second World War.

After Mr Clinton's affair with Gennifer Flowers, he kissed and made up with his wife. Mr Dole told his first wife it was all over with a typically terse "I want out" and abandoned her and his teenage daughter, begging the question: what, if anything, can Mr Dole teach Mr Clinton about "family values"?

As to dirty politics, it is on the record that Mr Dole has been far from immune to the blandishments of big business during his senatorial career. No company has contributed more campaign money to Mr Dole than the Gallo wine company. In exchange, Mr Dole went to great lengths to introduce legislation specifically, and successfully, aimed at improving Gallo's profits. Mr Dole also used his position to bolster the business of Archer Daniels Midland, a giant food company, which reciprocated not only by way of large campaign donations. In 1982, the chief executive of Archer Daniels sold a condominium in Florida – where Mr Dole spent last night watching the election returns – to him at below market price.

If Mr Clinton was at a disadvantage on the moral terrain, it was partly because he chose not attack Mr Dole personally – itself no so much an honourable calculation as one based on focus-group testing, which shows the public is repelled by negative campaigning.

If the character question is dead in Americans' electoral calculations, it is not Mr Clinton who is to blame. Politically ignorant as the US public may be, when they say "they're all the same", their instincts are good.

Final salute: Bob Dole, with wife, Elizabeth, ends his campaign before the Harry Truman statue of Independence, in Missouri, at 3am yesterday. The statue commemorates Truman's surprise, or 'upset', 1948 victory Photograph: Reuter

Weary old warrior ends last crusade

Rupert Cornwell
Washington

The old soldier's last campaign ended yesterday, where the first one began all of 45 years ago when he first became a representative in the Kansas state legislature. Bob Dole was back in Russell, casting his vote in a Presidential election he seemed destined to lose by a mile.

What probably were the final hours of Mr Dole's political career, spent mostly in the deep night of the American Midwest, have been surreal – a mixture of a campaign's obligatory optimism and a candidate's lacerating honesty as sheer weariness strips away his ability to pretend. "I've done what I can do – all I can do. Nothing I can say will change what will happen today."

For 96 hours before Russell, Mr Dole had whirled across the country, logging 10,534 miles that had taken him to 29 rallies in 20 states, with hardly a pit-stop. Sometimes his voice virtually gave out, in Houston his campaign plane *Citizenship* had a flat tyre, but still he kept going, driven by little more than pride and the desire to prove that at 73-years-young he could cope with a schedule that had reporters half his age wilting and buckling with exhaustion.

Earlier he had paid the obligatory stop 200 miles to the west in Independence, Missouri, home town of Harry Truman, patron saint of electoral victories snatched from seemingly certain defeat. It was 3 o'clock in the morning, but 2,500 people were on hand to listen.

"The tide is rolling all over the country," Mr Dole proclaimed, standing in front of the great man's statue outside the old courthouse and using words Truman used during his legendary surge to victory over Thomas Dewey in 1948. "I have seen it in other people's faces. The people are going to win the election."

If Mr Dole does so however, the miracle would eclipse even Truman's feat of 48 years ago – a surprise that would discredit the opinion polling industry for a century or more. In that year, "Give 'em hell" Harry turned around a deficit of 13 per cent in August, which had shrunk to 5 per cent in the final published poll, some three weeks before the election. This time Mr Clinton held a double digit lead right up to voting day.

And in his wry, self-mocking fashion, the candidate himself seemed to acknowledge his fate: "I don't believe in the polls, but I'll tell you about the good ones." But the tour, and the headlines it has generated, have already prompted wishful thinking in the Republican campaign: if only, if only. If only Mr Dole had done something like this earlier, when there was still time. In these last 24 hours the ordeal has been taking a visible toll, not just on Mr Dole, who has kept going on biscuits, water, throat spray and a herbal tea called Throat Coat, but on his wife Elizabeth.

> 'In his wry, self-mocking fashion, Dole himself seemed to acknowledge his fate'

Even so, and despite the candidate's croaking voice that cut his stump speech to a bare 10 minutes his sometimes dispirited demeanour, the odyssey has acquired an elegiac tone. "This is the last crusade of a great warrior." Senator John McCain of Arizona told a rally at Des Moines, Iowa, shortly after midnight, as the candidate stood behind him, blinking back tears.

"He is one of a generation of Americans who went out and made the world safe for democracy, so that ourselves and our children could have far better lives ... he returned to a life of service, not only for the people of Kansas but the people of this country." In 1996, Mr Dole's generation may have been one of the factors which doomed him.

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Conflict in Zaire: Urgent calls for intervention

Looters move in as refugees flee rebel force

Mary Braid
Goma

In the shadow of the giant volcanoes that dominate eastern Zaire's border with Rwanda, the rebel soldier's uniform seemed particularly shabby. But his eyes shone with conviction.

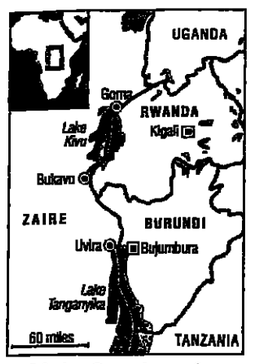
"President Mobutu has done nothing for our country," he said. "Zaire is rich and yet our people are so poor he did nothing to develop it. We have come to liberate our entire country and all the people in it."

In the main street, just a few hundred yards away, the liberated were doing a little final looting in shops and international aid organisation offices. Buildings were first ransacked at the weekend when the Zairean troops were run out of town. Goma was the third main town in eastern Zaire to fall to the newly formed Alliance of Democratic Forces for the liberation of Congo Zaire.

For two days, Goma's new military leaders had been cleaning up, before allowing journalists to cross the piece of string, slung between a peeling wrought iron chair and a bamboo stick, which marks the beginning of the border crossing on the banks of Lake Kivu.

But the blood-stained floors yesterday were evidence of war – with estimates of hundreds dead. In Goma's main street, looters trampled over discarded Zairean banknotes, worthless in this collapsing country where inflation is 7,000 per cent.

Small wonder that everyone seemed to be stealing something. Children struggled home with boxes of biscuits stamped United Nations High Commission for Refugees, and in the main street people crowded round UN lorries for food and fresh water, once destined for the millions of Rwandan Hutu refugees whose arrival in Zaire in 1994 triggered the crisis now engulfing the region and threatening the security of central Africa.



Of the Rwandan refugees there was no sign, but more than 700,000 of them are believed to be trapped between battle lines.

The humanitarian disaster facing them is the latest stage of the nightmare which began in 1994 with the genocide of Rwanda's minority Tutsi population by the majority Hutus. Two million Hutus fled the country when the Tutsi army won the civil war. In three evil months, they wiped out 800,000 Tutsis, and they feared reprisals.

Many refugees who tugged the international heart-strings were themselves perpetrators of one of the worst atrocities in recent history; the extremists who masterminded genocide have continued to create havoc. They turned the refugee camps into militia bases from which to hit at the new Rwandan government, and in Zaire they escalated persecution of Tutsis who had lived there for generations.

Yesterday, Robert Gribbin, US Ambassador to Rwanda, said the refugees had been a key element to regional destabilisation, and the need for their repatriation is now the orthodoxy.

Yesterday Andre Kassasse Ngandu, Goma's new military leader, said the refugees must leave so the rebels could abandon the ceasefire they called on Monday and resume their fight with the Zairean government.

The Zairean government bred discontent by denying Zairean Hutus and Tutsis citizenship in 1981, but it was the Hutu camp militias that encouraged local politicians to order local Tutsis to leave the country or be killed. The seeds of revolt were sown. Despite Rwandan government denials, most observers believe that, faced with Hutu threats on its own border, it has helped and even orchestrated the uprising.

But Zaire's insurrection is unlikely to subside if the refugees go home. The rebels insist they will take Kinshasa though they may have to build a road to get there for the country is ruined after 30 years of Mobutu rule; roads have been reclaimed by the jungle and communications are almost non-existent.

Eastern Zaire's rebels have support from other regions. "I come from Shaba province," revealed the soldier with the shabby uniform. "Many of us come from Shaba and also from Kasai." Both provinces are already virtually independent of Kinshasa.

Mr Ngandu says President Mobutu's return from Europe, where he has been receiving treatment for cancer, will change nothing. "He is terminally ill and finished as a political force. This is not just a regional war."

Nairobi, (Reuter) — African leaders called for the urgent deployment of a neutral force in eastern Zaire to protect more than a million refugees dependent on a UN Security Council decision.

The one-day summit, which was not attended by any Zairean representative, called on the UN Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and the Secretary-General of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), Salim Ahmed Salim to co-ordinate on the proposed move.

Flag of pride: International Brigade veterans Sam Russell, left, from England, and Jager Martin from Germany, next to a monument unveiled yesterday to honour their fellow fighters who died in the Spanish Civil War from 1936-39 Photograph: Sergis Perez/Reuter

Hong Kong passport security row

Stephen Vines
Hong Kong

Concern is being expressed by Home Office officials over the security of passports to be issued in Hong Kong next year which will provide visa-free access to Britain.

These concerns are linked to a brewing scandal in the colony over the sudden resignation of Lawrence Leung, the former Director of Immigration who negotiated a deal with the Chinese authorities under which what will become known as the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) passport will be produced by Hong Kong's largest pro-Peking publishing and printing house.

It had been thought that the printing contract would go to the De La Rue passport-printing plant in Dunstable, or possibly to the former De La Rue bank note factory in Hong Kong, now owned by the colony's Monetary Authority.

However, at the end of last year, Mr Leung travelled to Peking, where he reached an agreement for the new passports to be made by the Hong Kong Commercial Safety Printing Company, which has no previous passport-making experience. The concern centres not on the ability of the company to make international-standard passports, but on the level of security in their distribution.

This is particularly a problem for Britain, for not only has it announced that SAR passport-holders would be given visa-access for a trial period of two years, but the Foreign Office has been actively encouraging other countries to accept the document and provide equally relaxed entry rights to Hong Kong residents.

When John Major announced the visa-free arrangements last March, he was met by a storm of protest from Conservative MPs worried by an influx of Hong Kong residents. Fears were also expressed over the administration of travel documents issued by a Chinese-controlled government.

Hong Kong's government insists that an influx is unlikely and has been saying that there was no reason to be concerned over the printing of the passports. However, the administration is severely embarrassed by suggestions that the new passport may get into the hands of persons who are not entitled to hold it.

At least one Commonwealth country is understood to have made strong representations on this matter because it was led to believe that the new passports would be produced in the same way that existing Hong Kong travel documents are produced, and not by a company which is closely linked to China.

Hong Kong legislators are poised to start an investigation into the circumstances of Mr Leung's sudden decision to take early retirement, which came into force overnight rather than the customary period of 12 months. Using parliamentary privilege, some legislators have aired allegations about Mr Leung which have appeared in newspapers.

He was well-known to have unusually good contacts with the Chinese authorities and was accused of passing information to them which would have damaged the security of dissidents and members of the civil service who have secretly applied for British citizenship.

The Home Office said production of the passports was a matter for the Hong Kong government. However, a spokeswoman said: "As far as security goes, the British immigration services have the best record in the world for the detection of fake travel documents."

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Did you see *Total Recall* on the telly last night? Remember the plot of *Robocop*, or *Blade Runner*, or *Alien*? Many of our most popular science fiction films have a recurring theme – the corporate giant who proves to be the unseen hand that rules the world. And these stories are generally intended as reflections on the present day, just as George Orwell's *1984* was written as a reflection of life in 1948. Orwell took the implications of "100 per cent Americanism" in the US (the ideology that led to McCarthyism), and Stalinism in the Soviet Union and ended up with *Big Brother* and the Ministry of Love. Were he to write today a book called 2069 to reflect life in 1996 he might well choose to build a story of corporate rather than political power.

Of course, we've always known that these fantasies are just that: overstated extensions of a trend towards big business power, but no real reflection of how life is lived. But hold on a minute: how close are we to corporate totalitarianism? Some might say it is closer than we think. And events this week might provide them with at least a little indicative evidence.

The industrialised world at the end of the 20th century is often referred to as an era of deregulation, privatisation, globalisation, and – in theory as a result of these three things – growing competition. But a quick glance at the merger now planned by British Telecom, the transatlantic alliance advocated by British Airways, and the inexorable growth of the hi-tech communications empires of men such as Rupert Murdoch and Bill Gates, seems to tell a rather different story. These powerful corporate networks straddle national boundaries, and seem to trample cheerfully over local political constraints. Could they be the core of a rather disturbing trend towards communications giants who soar above democratic national control?

British Telecom's proposed merger looks innocuous enough. The company wants to join the US telecommunications company MCI – the one with strong links to Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation. The merger will, BT executives claim, allow them to play in a global market in which only big boys survive. British Airways sings a similar tune about its planned alliance with one of the biggest US airlines, American Airlines. Without it, according to both BA and AA, our own national champion will suffer in the global marketplace.

Both developments represent a conclusion that big is not so much beautiful, as the only conceivable way to conduct communications enterprise in the modern world. Why? Because communications businesses are not just operating in a global market (that's been going on a long time): they are selling global products, in the sense that their product (particularly in telecommunications) reaches everywhere. Cans of Coca-Cola have been sold for decades by one multinational company through billions of separate local transactions. But Coca-Colas are not global products in the way that the goods controlled and marketed by our new giants – whether it be phone calls from London to New York, Internet conversations between Seattle and Sydney, faxes sent from Boston to Bogota or forays on to the Internet from Tokyo and Taunton – are international. There cannot be any such thing as purely local competition for these kinds of services. Governments cannot confine them within national borders. No wonder then that new international conglomerates are emerging to deal with them.

But globalised companies need not necessarily mean national monopolies. BT's links with MCI should not affect the level (or lack) of competition in the British telecommunications market at all. Admittedly when all the players are big guys, it is much harder for new entrepreneurs to break into the game. However, so long as there are *several big global companies competing* in the British market to offer us phone lines, Internet connections, television entertainment, and so on, then consumers should not suffer too much.

While there is proper regulation within countries, and appropriate co-ordination of regulatory regimes across countries, the nightmare of corporate totalitarianism will remain a Hollywood nightmare. Big boys may run the game, but good regulation should ensure that the little children can play too, and, with a bit of luck, keep on the big boys' heels.

Only, there is a catch. Maintaining competition and protecting consumers depends on active government and astute politicians. Politicians in many countries are oblivious of both the opportunities and the dangers, because they are unable to grapple with the domestic implications of multinational deal-making. Too often, also, they are too intimidated by the power of the communications giants. Plenty of politicians and political parties have always sat in the pockets of big vested business interests. But with competing interests, competing politicians, and a free press, the public can still find out what is going on and vote corrupt culprits out. But in the modern media age, all politicians depend on the companies that control the communication network – and they are beholden in a way that is almost unprecedented in democratic political history.

The role of government and of good *democratic politicians is to defend the* public interest against overwhelming private interests from one side or another. The dangers of political totalitarianism, where politicians use the state to control countries in their own interest, seem remote to Western democracies these days. But we rely on politicians to regulate the global market to protect us against corporate totalitarianism too – and it isn't clear any more that they are able or willing to do so. *Total Recall* is still a daft tale – but a sensitive mind could be forgiven for reading it as an ominous warning.

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You have to be ruthless, Auntie

The BBC produced 230 promises of good behaviour yesterday. Most were repeats. The corporation promises to be tasteful, decent, and impartial. It will curb violence and bad language, even when those are necessary to interview politicians properly.

John Birt, announcing these promises and principles, called his employers "the world's greatest cultural institution". The World's Greatest Cultural Institution has spent more than £430,000 on this manifesto, which as well as 230 promises contains five principles and 10 pledges, all expounded with the help of *pinnacles of excellence ranging from* Chris Evans to Wallace and Gromit. If the Labour Party can get its manifesto on the back of a credit card, surely the BBC can manage a little editing?

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Why Africa doubts US peace plan

Sir: As suggested in your leader of 30 October, the Zaire-Burundi-Rwanda situation has clearly gone beyond the point where direct military intervention from outside would be either feasible or effective.

In the longer run a peace force may well, as you say, be the best hope for Africa's future but there are good reasons for African states, especially South Africa, to treat the *American offer to back a Sub-*Saharan "Crisis Response Force" with caution.

I was in South Africa during the recent visit by the US Secretary of State and had the opportunity to discuss the issue with key South Africans before the meetings with Warren Christopher.

Already there is a tendency on the part of the other states in the region to regard South Africa as potentially the United States' agent on the continent. For this and other reasons the country's leadership will resist the role of US surrogate.

The suggestion that the US would fund a separate force outside the authority of the UN, while at the same time being in arrears with its contributions to the international organisation, was not well received, especially in the light of America's declared intention to veto Africa's candidate for the next term as UN Secretary-General, Boutros Ghali.

Other concerns about active military participation in peace-keeping relate to South Africa's preparedness in military and *financial terms for* an indefinite or otherwise ill-defined commitment. Fear of a "Vietnam-type situation" is now perhaps more of an issue than the preparedness of the recently *integrated South African* National Defence Force (SANDF) for operations in politically sensitive situations such as Angola or Burundi.

Even so, the preference is for humanitarian and medical assistance and technically specialised activities such as landmine clearance, which South Africa is particularly well equipped to do.

Because of the progressive and necessary restrictions on South *Africa's defence budget*, the American proposal was financially tempting, but South Africa would clearly prefer broader-based support for building on its own initiatives for conflict anticipation and prevention within the recently formed Association of Southern African States (ASAS) and *under* the general authority of the UN.

In view of the composition of ASAS membership, and the peacekeeping experience of Commonwealth armies, there would be scope for collective Commonwealth participation. This has been canvassed as a possibility in some South African quarters.

But failing or combined with that, there seems to be a real *opportunity* for Britain, France and other states of the European Union to develop a special relationship with Sub-Saharan Africa led by South Africa, which could be mutually *advantageous* in economic as well as strategic peace-maintaining terms.

Professor WILLIAM GUTTERIDGE
Director, Research Institute for the Study of Conflict and Terrorism
London W1

Clearing the air on fireworks

Sir: Things that go bang unexpectedly cause disorientation and loss of judgement. This applies both to the stun grenade and to comment on matters related to fireworks ("Deregulation blamed for Chinese-made peril", 5 November).

As a result of a couple of recent and most regrettable fatal accidents involving fireworks, cries are going *up* for more control, but reason is being cast to the winds and unrelated subjects are being confused.

It has been announced that the two fireworks involved were made in China, and that their importation should therefore be more controlled. There are two rational arguments for more control of such imports: the first is that the Chinese tend to incorporate pyrotechnic compositions which are considered to be dangerously sensitive by British standards (notably the admixture of chlorates and sulphur) and the second is that their relative cheapness represents unreasonable competition to British manufacturers.

The Government's decision to deregulate the importation of fireworks has been held responsible for the marketing of some Chinese fireworks which may be dangerous, and is accordingly to be deprecated.

On the other hand, the fireworks which caused the fatalities were mortar shells. These are fired at a steep angle from barrels, usually made of cardboard and typically between three and eight-inch bore. The integral propellant charge, consisting of enough gunpowder to lift them a few hundred feet into the air before they burst, is ignited by a fuse extending out of the muzzle, where it can be ignited by *hand or by remote electrical* means. There is nothing specifically Chinese about such fireworks.

Now, in the spirit of the present movement to ban firearms, there will no doubt be unjustifiable demands for firework mortar shells being banned too: it might more reasonably be argued that the use of such fireworks should be restricted to people with a modicum of training in their use.

There is, however, absolutely no justification in demonising Chinese-made fireworks because somebody places his face in front of a gun barrel when it is about to fire.

Dr SIDNEY ALFORD
Corsham, Wiltshire

Dylan no match for his wife

Sir: Robert Vincent says that Dylan Thomas was "horrid" to his wife (letter, 5 November). Maybe he was sometimes, but Caitlin Thomas *could be just as horrid back*. When it came to a physical fight, she always won. In fact they loved each other deeply and their real fight was against poverty.

ADRIAN MITCHELL
London NW5

GPs forced to let down patients

Sir: As a general practitioner, I am always glad when debate about the *future of the health service receives* the prominence it should have, but the net effect of your most recent articles and correspondence is profoundly disheartening.

Only seven years ago, general practice was a satisfying and popular career choice for able doctors who valued its independence and its potential for personal patient care and the advocacy of individual needs. Now the profession is in crisis. We are expected to be dishonest brokers in an under-resourced system which has lost all sense of direction.

The right-wing think-tanks that willed and produced this result have been replaced by bodies like the Institute for Public Policy Research and the Social Market Foundation, whose letters you have printed.

At least the old right-wingers were honest about their intentions and pointed out that NHS funding from general taxation depressed health spending beneath the levels of other western societies.

Unlike Stephen Pollard of the Social Market Foundation, they had a faint smattering of historical knowledge and knew that the Labour Party's 19th-century roots lay in an awareness that friendly and mutual societies could never begin to tackle the basic needs of every individual for medical and social care, especially as such needs are inversely related to individual income. To talk about the NHS's problems as purely organisational, or to see NHS/private-sector co-operation as the way forward, is fine if you accept that the devil is welcome to take the hindmost in *our society*.

Unfortunately, these hindmost individuals – the elderly, the unemployed, the less able of all kinds – keep on coming to our surgeries. They all seem to have unrealistic expectations of what an advanced society at the end of the 20th century should be able to provide.

Operations? You'll go on to the waiting list when it re-opens next April. A handrail and bath aids for your elderly mother? Occupational therapy can't accept new referrals at present. Heart disease? No investigation possible until the end of next year. And so on.

What unites these hindmost individuals with their better-off fellow patients is anger and bafflement that a system they believe in can let them down when they most need it. And this for lack of money, which they would gladly pay if they knew that it would be spent on the health service.

Given that no political party has the courage or the honesty to support the best option – increased redistributive general taxation – hypothecated health tax must be the only answer. Or a final abandonment of the whole notion that society should look after its ill people on an equitable basis.

Dr RICHARD LEHMAN
Banbury, Oxfordshire

Bigger turbines a desecration

Sir: Tricia Allen of Friends of the Earth, (Letters, 1 November) *"corrects" my figure of* 40,000 wind turbines, which originates from the Department of Industry's Renewable Energy Advisory Group. Reducing the number to 10,000 demands huge machines, each generating more than one megawatt and over 200 feet high.

Ludicrously she compares these turbines with the windmills which once adorned our countryside. Mill sails rarely exceeded 80 feet in diameter and the total height of the structure was little more than this. Almost without exception they were in the lowlands.

The turbines would be in the uplands, on hill summits and plateaux, their 150ft aerofoils raised on concrete towers.

Look at the 103 flickering crucifixions of Llandinam. Imagine them twice as large. Ms Allen invites 100 such desecrations of the western uplands for a saving of CO2 emission which could be matched within a year by an organised programme of energy conservation.

JOHN ETHERINGTON
Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire

Sizzling Sixties?

Sir: Stephen Magill's interpretation of the women's hall of residence, which contained 80 bedrooms all without locks, may be naive (letter, 5 November). Since it was built in 1968, it may not represent a golden age of crime-free Britain so much as the Summer of Love.

LIZ GOLDING
Orwell, Cambridgeshire

Three cheers for Clinton

Sir: Far from ending the American century with a whimper (leading article, 4 November), a Clinton victory signals an exciting time for the centre-left across the industrialised world

By bringing the budget deficit under control, Mr Clinton has shown that the centre-left can be trusted with a modern economy. During Mr Clinton's years in the White House, more than 10 million jobs have been created, business investment has grown rapidly, the growth rate has outstripped that of the Reagan and Bush years and interest rates have fallen.

Real disposable incomes rose by 4.9 per cent in the third quarter of this year while employment costs remain subdued. Mr Clinton has achieved that which has eluded Conservatives in both the United States and the United Kingdom – an investment-led recovery.

Yet the significance of a Clinton victory is in the battle of ideas. Monetarism has been put to sleep. Active government has won. Progressive policies such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, the school-to-work scheme and the raising of the minimum wage have helped ordinary Americans into work with decent wages.

Mr Clinton has proved that by giving people the tools to succeed in a fast-changing world economy, *government does have a positive and* active role in society. And that is of importance to the progressive cause around the world. Three cheers, not whimpers, for Mr Clinton.

DAVID-JOHN COLLINS
Groombridge, Kent

'Missing' MPs were paired

Sir: Polly Toynbee's conspiracy theory about the "mysterious absence" of two Labour MPs for a crucial vote on the recent Broadcasting Bill makes interesting reading ("Will Parliament resist *Rupert's grip?*", 4 November). However, as one of the "absent" MPs, I have to disappoint her.

Had she had the courtesy to check with me, she would have discovered that I was in Luxembourg with the Public Accounts Committee investigating European Fraud and that I was paired with Conservative MP Nick Hawkins. The other Labour MP was also paired, attending to legitimate parliamentary business. My understanding is that the only opposition MP absent for the vote without a pair was the Liberal Democrat.

ANGELA EAGLE, MP
(Wallasey, Lab)
House of Commons
London SW1

Unfair on fares

Sir: With reference to Matthew Nimmo's letter on benefit rules (29 October), last year I was unemployed and claiming benefit. I registered with an agency for casual labouring work and worked for two or three days a week. I was paid £25 a day for my work and spent £6 a day on travelling expenses.

When I told the benefit office, they promptly deducted that amount from my benefit but made no allowance for my (documented) travelling expenses. This meant I lost £6 from my weekly income for each day I worked. What price honesty?

KEVIN PETTY
Middlesex University
London N17

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.
Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk).
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

essay

America expects the old Clinton deal

Unlike the last Democrat to be re-elected, Franklin D Roosevelt, Bill Clinton is mediocre, insincere and irresolute. He's not even a liberal: there'll be no New Deal in his second term. But America doesn't seem to be grumbling, says Rupert Cornwell

So, it seems, Bill Clinton has climbed his last mountain. For the first time since Roosevelt, 60 years ago, a Democrat has been re-elected to the White House. For many Americans, it has been a slightly queasy experience. Thus far, the man they are returning to power has been no FDR, but a mediocre President, who on occasion is uplifting and purposeful, but often insincere, opportunistic, and irresolute.

Always he is dogged by scandal. No President, not even Richard Nixon, has been so scrutinised and psychoanalysed; but despite a score of Clinton books, not to mention a best-selling novel, the 42nd President remains an enigma, ever capable of reinvention. Is he a liberal, a centrist, a pragmatist without principle – or all three?

The conservative talk-radio hosts, who hate him, have no doubt that a Clinton liberated from the need to win elections will metamorphose back into the liberal they insist he has been all along. Almost certainly, they are wrong. The reasons are three, two practical and one personal.

Whichever party controls Capitol Hill will probably do so by a slender margin. If the Republicans retain a majority in both Senate and House (which seems probable), then a Democratic President and a hostile Congress will be forced to do business – as they have done, productively and to the broad approval of the ordinary voter, for the past six months. The fruits include welfare reform, a sweeping telecommunications Bill and a modest extension of healthcare coverage.

In the best of all worlds, that co-operation would broaden into a bipartisan deal to rein in Medicare and Medicaid, whose projected runaway future growth has been the great unmentioned of Campaign '96. These past few weeks, Clinton has made much of the fact that during his term the deficit has shrunk from $290bn to $107bn. What he did not say was that, barring a deal on the two federal entitlement programmes, the deficit will start to climb uncontrollably from 1997. And who knows: respectively shamed by the Indonesian/-Taiwanese follies and the conviction of Bob Dole's finance vice-chairman for money laundering, Democrats and Republicans might just cleanse the Augean stable of campaign financing. But, as they say in these parts, don't bet the ranch on it.

But even the return of a Democratic Congress should not greatly scare the talk-show brigade. Any Democratic majority, in either chamber, will be tiny. In both House and Senate, the balance of power is likely to lie in the centre, among conservative Democrats and moderate Republicans.

Second, do not underestimate the restraining force of Al Gore, the counsellor to whom Clinton listens most and the most influential Vice-President of modern times. Mr Gore is no liberal; and, more important, has every intention of dropping the "Vice" from his job description come 2001. That ambition would be wrecked were Clinton, whom he has served with unflinching loyalty, were to embark on a liberal binge.

Third, there is Clinton himself. At the tender age of 50, he is already in the glowing late afternoon of a political career, a moment when statesmen ponder their place in history. The America entering the new millennium is if anything more conservative than the one he took over in 1992. Clinton wants to be remembered as the symbol of his era. He is also a man who craves affection, who prefers to swim with tides rather than, Thatcher-like, fight his way upstream.

Hence the relentless centrist of the past two years, who from the healthcare reform débâcle of 1994 has learnt where "liberal" interventionist hubris can lead. From the wreckage emerged the man who stole every popular Republican policy in sight, to the point of signing a Bill that jettisoned the federal welfare guarantee dating back to Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal – before vowing, in the Clinton tradition of seeking to have it both ways, to correct the measure's cruellest excesses in a second term.

For the rest, a few clues may be gleaned from his standard campaign speech. He will seek modest tax cuts, to help people to send their children to university, and buy their first home. There will be incentives for companies to take on workers previously on welfare; perhaps a small further measure of gun control; sundry small "pro-family" measures.

As always, the rhetoric soars: but look closely into the glistening torrent of words, and for solid proposals you will find only minnows. As he proclaimed in his State of the Union speech last January, "The era of big government is over." We should not expect a burst of legislation, like the one initiated by FDR in 1933 – the famous "hundred days" that culminated in the New Deal, which brought political stability to the entire industrial-capitalist system.

Still, Clinton the policy freak must fill the void; hence the enthusing on the campaign about research into cancer genes and severed spinal cords, and a computer under development by the US Government and IBM which "can do more calculations in one second than you can do on your handheld calculator in 30,000 years." It was vintage Clinton, futuristic and inspirational, but ultimately signifying next to nothing. For Ronald Reagan's ill-defined "shining city on a hill", read the present incumbent's "Bridge to the 21st century".

But then again Bill Clinton, with all his imperfections, is a man of his time. He leads an America at relative peace with itself and the rest of the world, an America of diminished fears but also of diminished expectations – not least regarding the presidency. Obscured by the posturing and promises of both candidates is the fact that an American President has far less power in the domestic arena than a French President, a British Prime Minister or a German Chancellor. He can blow up the world, but he cannot set interest rates or impose a budget; least of all can he fend off the recession that one day will end what is now the third longest US recovery since the Second World War. Since 1991, the economic cycle might have been scripted by the Clinton/Gore campaign. Sooner or later it will turn against him, further impeding his room for manoeuvre.

Small wonder, then, that second terms generally disappoint. His last election behind him, a President can take chances he otherwise might not. More often, a combination of exhaustion and arrogance take their toll. Within a couple of years, mid-term elections usually produce congressional losses for the party that controls the White House and weaken the President's authority. By that point the lame duck has become a virtual dead duck.

And look not for sweeping initiatives in foreign fields, the preferred theatre of second-term Presidents. The main one has probably already been vouchsafed: his campaign pledge that by 1999 Nato will have been enlarged, whatever the objections of the Russians. It is now an open secret that, contrary to previous assurances, some American troops will stay on in Bosnia into 1997. With the election over, Clinton may consent to a compromise over the tenure of Boutros Boutros-Ghali at the UN; maybe, now that the Jewish lobby need no longer be placated, he will get tough with Benjamin Netanyahu. He may aspire to be a peacemaker, but his greatest legacy would be a durable framework for relations with China, just as Ronald Reagan the former red-baiter is remembered above all for his second term decision to "engage" Moscow – a policy which ultimately led to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

But firm predictions are imposible. The fractured, multi-polar world of the post-Cold War era does not lend itself to grand designs, while the Clinton mettle has not yet been tested by a hot war. And if the occupant of the White House does not change, his foreign policy team probably will. The Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, the Defense Secretary, William Perry and the National Security Adviser, Anthony Lake, may all shortly leave the administration.

Then there are the scandals. If 1996 has a parallel, it is less Reagan 1984 than Nixon 1972, when an incumbent's massive victory was followed within two years by resignation and disgrace. By no stretch of the imagination is Whitewater another Watergate, but assuming the Republicans cling to even one chamber of Congress, then old land deals in Arkansas, improper purloining of FBI files, cronyism at the White House travel office, and now the squalid saga of foreign financial contributions to Democratic party coffers, are enough to keep half a dozen congressional committees in business for years.

Before yesterday, the Republicans were vowing no let-up, and Ross Perot was even warning that the President would face criminal charges, and should have resigned already to spare his country further agony. Perhaps the investigative ardour will slacken now that the election is past. But for the White House, the Chinese water torture of revelation and inquiry will continue, from which only defence attorneys will emerge the richer.

The administration may dismiss events on Capitol Hill as a partisan witch-hunt. Far harder to brush off are the labours of the special prosecutor Kenneth Starr, who has already secured convictions against several Clinton business associates in Little Rock. Starr says he is making "substantial progress" in his investigations, which might conceivably lead to an indictment of Hillary Clinton for perjury and concealing evidence before a grand jury. Separately, the Supreme Court will shortly rule whether the sexual harassment suit brought against Clinton by the former Arkansas state employee Paula Jones may go ahead before he leaves office. If it does, then the tabloidisation of the presidency will be complete.

Hence the vague yet widespread queasiness, which does not need a Ross Perot to articulate it. Clinton's entire career has been a continuing cycle of success, disaster and recovery. Indeed this hugely talented, yet hugely flawed child of the late 20th century seems unable to exist without adversity. If the pattern holds, he is now due for a fall – and a big one.

On the Edge was the title of one of the best of the books about the Clinton first term. If he remains halfway true to himself, then his second will be more of the same.

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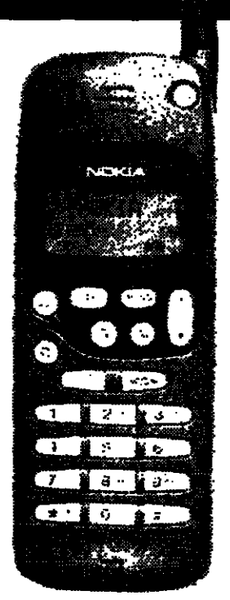

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I'll be in Fiji, hiding from the 21st century

Miles Kington

I am very glad to welcome back the well-known modern historian Professor Norman Hunter-Gatherer, who has agreed to answer all your questions about the modern condition. All yours, Prof!

I am very interested in the approaching furore about the millennium, Professor. It is being treated as if it were somehow a great turning-point, yet all that is going to happen is that the number of the year is going to change, which happens every year anyway. The fact that all the digits are going to change instead of the usual one or two is not really relevant, any more than it is significant when our car's mileometer goes from 99,999 to 100,000. And yet we are spending millions of pounds on this notional change! People are already booking hotels on the tip of New Zealand so they can be the first to greet the new century! Isn't this all rather ridiculous, especially as in many non-Christian parts of the world, where they measure the passing of the years differently, it may not be the millennium at all! I don't know how the Jews or Muslims measure the passage of time, but it might well be the year 2397 or something to them. The world of Islam won't be very interested in the year 2000 if it isn't the year 2000, will they?

Professor Hunter-Gatherer writes: You have a good point there.

On the other hand, the world of Islam, especially its more militant wing, may well take advantage of our millennium. I tell you, if I were a militant Muslim, I would say to myself that the day of the Millennium would be a *very* good day to invade Christendom! The one day in a thousand years when everyone is off-duty – when everyone in the Christian world is either celebrating or recovering from a hangover, or sitting at home watching the party on TV! The world of Islam could just walk in and take over! Don't you think so?

Professor Hunter-Gatherer writes: It's certainly a thought.

Though I suppose you have to remember that the millennium, whenever it starts and ends, will start and end at midnight, which is not the best possible time for an invasion by anyone. Can you imagine a military operation timed to start at midnight? It sounds doomed to me.

In any case, surely this millennium changeover is only another version of New Year's Eve on a bigger scale, New Year's Eve writ large? As such, the prospect is horrendous. We all know what New Year's Eve is like: crowds of riotous young people being sick and splashing about in the water in Trafalgar Square. Would anyone in his right mind invade right then? And have to clear up the mess?

Professor Hunter-Gatherer writes: No, possibly not.

In any case, the way things are going, a lot of us are not going to be looking forward to the next century. We don't see much cause for celebration, and are not inclined to believe very much in progress. We won't be waving flags, just keeping our fingers crossed. We won't be booking hotel bedrooms in New Zealand so that we can be the first in the next century – more likely we will be booking bedrooms in Fiji or somewhere just the other side of the International Date Line so that we can be the last people on earth still to be in the old 20th century! Makes sense, doesn't it?

Professor Hunter-Gatherer writes: I can see your point.

Talking about nostalgia, as we come up to Remembrance Day, poppies are yet again being sold for us to wear on this day – except to those of us who had the foresight to keep our poppies safe from last year! – and it strikes me not for the first time what a mixed message this sends out. In a military context, poppies convey gratitude and heroism. But when it comes to the drug problem, the same flower represents ruin and degradation. It must be unusual to find the same thing representing totally opposite qualities! The only other example I can think of is of the way a bald shaven head has sinister, even criminal, overtones in the West, but signifies a monk in the East, and therefore quite the opposite.

Professor Gather-Hunterer writes: Yes, an interesting observation. I'd never thought of that.

Hold on – this question and answer column strikes me as a total con! All the information is coming from the readers! The old Professor is not contributing anything! He seems happy just to nod automatically when anyone says anything! Is he drunk? Is he on drugs? Is this what they call a Post-Modernist advice column, or what?

Professor Hunter-Gatherer writes: You may be nearer the truth than you think.

Professor Hunter-Gatherer will be back soon with more enlightenment on the way we live now. Keep those questions rolling!

هكذا من الاصل

Message for our leaders: ignore Clinton's America

Andrew Marr

Major and Blair have similarities with Bill Clinton. But they should learn no lessons from a mere campaigning machine

Tony Blair is our Bill Clinton. He is young, telegenic and very bright, and takes no prisoners. He is a brilliant politician of the centre-left who has come to a happy accommodation with much of the mainstream conservative agenda. He is, like Clinton, a child of the Sixties, who prefers jeans, wears his hair slightly long, listens to rock music. But, like Clinton, he has turned his back on some of that decade's legacy: he is pro-family, pious, stern on law and order; he makes austere noises about welfare reform.

John Major, by contrast, is our ... Bill Clinton. He is the incumbent leader, repeatedly written off by wiseacre journalists. His administration has tacked, and has suffered from what we here call "sleaze" and the Americans, in a different context, call "the character question". But like Clinton, Major is a superb campaigner and comeback merchant who knows that it is always, at root, the economy. Like Clinton, he has been delivering economic recovery.

So which is it? Will the real British Bill please stand up? Let's admit that these Atlantic-abolishing parallels are a game: the United States is a very different country, whose politicians play by other rules. The politics of Washington move in an asymmetric rhythm from that of the politics of London. But there is enough common daylight in British and American politics for the Clinton question to be an illuminating one.

And the answer, of course, is that Blair seems more like Clinton than the Prime Minister does; for to be "like" Clinton in 1996 is to be, above all, someone with the gloss and confidence of a winner. Had John Major been confronting a Labour Bob Dole – an unpopular, older politician – then perhaps he would seem Clintonesque. But he isn't, and doesn't.

Yet the Clinton comparison is one which Blair, if he is wise, will flinch from, and not only because it implies a weakness for trouser-dropping. Consider: when Clinton is so regularly, almost universally, described as a brilliant politician, what does this mean? Does it mean that he has changed American society? Not a whit. He has presided, literally, over a nation driven by globalised corporations, by the barons of the new technologies and by swift, sometimes fracturing social change, but little touched by the doings of the White House.

This recovery is not "his", in the sense that America's recovery from the Depression was built and directed by the Roosevelt administrations. The country has entered these milder waters during Clinton's genial, loose-tillered watch, and this has hugely helped him, keeping the electorate in relatively forgiving mood: but the growth, employment and inflation record has essentially been accomplished by American business and by the Fed.

Where, then, is his brilliance? It exists; but it is a technical thing. People talk of the President's phenomenal memory for names and his charismatic flesh-pressing; his instinct for dominating a room, for doing a deal, for scenting trouble. Hardened journalists are awe-struck by his energy and resilience, by the enthusiasm for campaigning. People talk of the "political animal". That's Clinton – instinctive, with special eyes, hands, nostrils and teeth – built for winning votes, as Tyson is built for hitting people.

As ideology and savage political argument have gone out of fashion, then this animal skill has come to be rated ever higher. But for any politician who aspires to be radical or progressive, there is a trap here; a political-animal-trap.

It works because the second-order, technical expertise so admired in modern politics, and so exemplified by Clinton, does not move great masses of voters. They know that big reforms come from argumentative and brave leaders, and cause pain, and make enemies.

So, as the political class gazes admiringly at the latest glittering example of a great campaigner or a great party-manager at work, the rest of the world turns quietly away. Look at the pathetic voter turn-out achieved in yesterday's election in America; or the worryingly low rates of registration and intention to vote among younger adults here. A decade or so more of this and the essential base of centre-leftish voting – the very mechanism on which Clinton and Blair depend – will have been eaten away.

In the end, if progressive politicians don't progress, preferring instead to follow the dominant conservative ideology of the day, then conservatives can only win. It may be infuriating for Republican or Tory activists to see cherished ideas being implemented by their political enemies; but why should conservative voters worry?

It is not, it seems, too late for Clinton. With the freedom of a second term, he could deliver at least some of the promises of his earliest national campaigning.

And, obviously, it is not too late for Tony Blair. If he wins in May, his real career in politics lies mainly ahead of him: all his essential choices on welfare, tax, political reform, Europe, the environment are as yet unmade and can be taken, if he chooses, in a progressive, self-certain spirit – there will be no Republican Congress to fret about.

It isn't surprising that Blair is relaxed this morning about the Clinton parallel – who wouldn't want to be tainted by awesome electoral success? Yet the idea that he should, in power, take lessons from the first Clinton administration is a dire one. In office, Clintonism suggests not the brilliance of the campaign trail, but an ungainly political dance to somebody else's tune. So: Tony Blair – Britain's Bill Clinton? No thanks.

The cost of being Europe's squaddies

by Polly Toynbee

This is the ultimate Biggles dream machine, fuelled by national testosterone. We – you and I – are buying 232 for £16bn

Who do we think we are? We strut our stuff on the world stage, puffed up with imperial dreams way beyond our means – all fur coat and no knickers. We are buying more Eurofighters than anyone *else so we can flash around the* skies like some pimp cruising through a bombed-out neighbourhood in a white Jag. We have ordered 386 new Challenger tanks and 64 EH101 battle helicopters. We are hardware addicts on a wild spending spree.

The public spending round is upon us. The little performance with the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, and his (too few) extra millions for the NHS is a phoney show designed to reassure us that money will go where it is needed. But what about the billions spent where it is no longer needed?

Britain together with France spends far more than the rest of Europe on defence – 3.1 per cent of our GNP. (We spend the same as France because we are locked into an absurd arms race with them.) Germany and Belgium spend only 1.7 per cent; Spain spends 1.5 per cent. We have no treaty obligations to make us contribute more to Nato or European defence than Germany, so we could halve our spending if we chose. We currently spend £22bn. Think how much we could put right with another £11bn a year to spend on education and social projects.

We are not a rich country. We rank only 20th in the world, with most of Europe ahead of us in the league tables of per capita GDP. Why do we spend so much on defence, what do we get for it, and who is the enemy, anyway?

The Eurofighter is a beautiful thing. This we know because of the purple prose that drips from the boys' pens. One eloquent profile of the plane reads: "The pilot with helmet-mounted sights and voice-operated weapons selection will be able to shoot down enemy aircraft by doing little more than looking at them and wishing his missiles happy hunting. The computer has a woman's soft voice which keeps the pilot informed about the condition of the aircraft (remaining fuel, etc) and rises to an urgent timbre when the blip of an enemy appears on her radar ... Four computers hold it steady and interpret the pilot's tiny finger movements on the joystick." This is the ultimate Biggles dream machine, fuelled by national testosterone.

We – you and I – are buying 232 of these. Estimates suggest that they will cost some £16bn, but the cost is notional. It will multiply again and again, as defence contracts do. At the present attrition rate, some eight of them will crash a year in training. But it will enable Britain to mount a full-scale war. Hurrah!

The plane was first thought of in 1979 at the height of the Cold War to engage with Russian MiGs over Europe. It was designed for dog-fights and assaults on attacking bombers. No one expects bombers over Britain now. Any attack would be with missiles.

For what war will these little beauties be needed? Wars now are expected to be of the Bosnian or Rwandan variety. Our strategy is about peacekeeping around the world. The monstrous great Challenger 2 tanks we have ordered, at a (purely notional) £1.1bn, will be no use for that kind of war – too wide, slow and heavy for narrow streets or long distances. Then there is the £1.5bn (or pick any sum you like) for the EH101 helicopters. Ah, yes, and the Trident nuclear submarines, still costing us some £1bn a year.

Why do we need all this? One of the worst reasons is jobs. Michael Portillo says that the Eurofighter will bring 14,000 jobs. At a very conservative estimate, that is £1m per job. £1m! Think of the jobs you could create with government money in health, education, training, welfare and social services. This is a job creation of the madhouse.

There is the high-tech argument. But these days military electronics steals from the civilian world. They spin-in the technology of others. The spin-off is minimal.

Why do we really need all this? It keeps us at the top table of world-class warriors. Our nuclear arms and strike forces ensure our UN security council seat. Here, the argument becomes circular. Why do we want to sit on the security council, anyway? Why do we want to punch so much more than our weight in the world? Why can't we be satisfied with the firepower of Belgium? Here the experts shrug, bemused by the question. National grandeur, said one. Our own self-image and pride, said another.

We do have moral obligations. We have a duty to contribute fairly, according to our means, to international peacekeeping. Are we loved and admired around the world because of our extra firepower? No, we are not loved at all; least of all in the EU, where we contribute so much more than the rest. We are the squaddies of Europe. Our pretentions are snickered at by other nations who see through our gilded armour-plating to the chaotic state of much of society behind the front line.

Who are our real enemies? They are all within. We may be armed to the teeth, but not against the enemies people most fear. Crime has come to symbolise a sickness eating away at the social core. The enemy is not some Red Baron in the skies, but small boys from catastrophic, poor families, out of control, on drugs, growing up without help, for lack of investment in social programmes. They wreak havoc in schools and fetch up in prison while their teenage sisters give birth to more like them. These are the fruits of a neglected underclass. Much can be done about it with money wisely spent. Ignorance, poverty and crime are our real enemies.

So what would Labour do in power? They will hold a defence review that will try to make sense of our muddled military objectives. Maybe they will have the guts to make swingeing cuts, but if so, we are not likely to hear about it until after the election.

If generals are always fighting the last war, then politicians are always fighting the last election. Scorched into Labour memory is the damage that unilateral disarmament did, tarring them as fellow travellers in the Cold War. But those days have gone. Declaring the peace dividend would make Labour's best social aspirations suddenly look creative and credible. If read-my-lips-no-new-taxes is to remain the rule, then a promise to release money from the mad defence budget would win votes.

White mischief

Fatherhood meets the mother of all fantasists. By John Lyttle

Michael Jackson To Have Child. So what else is new? the cynical will doubtless say – and let us be frank, where Michael Jackson is concerned, we may all have become cynics, stunned observers at a sick media circus that never ends, such is the ringmaster's talent for constant re-invention.

We are, after all, talking about a poor black boy who "grew up" to become a rich white woman, the victim of a strange skin condition that has not only rendered him pale and uninteresting but caused his nose to narrow, chin to dimple and cheekbones to sharpen, the Jehovah's Witness in love with the supernatural who swiftly, and secretly, wed a Scientologist (Lisa Marie Presley – that was the name of his latest flame) at the very moment accusations of child sex abuse hit. And who just as quickly divorced when a multi-million-dollar settlement bought off further legal action from Jordy Chandler and other pre-pubescent accusers who threatened the increasingly purple reign of the self-proclaimed King of Pop. Jackson was able to moonwalk away from the mess, career intact – the last three singles have sold in the millions – and now one has to ask if his defiance of the law, manipulation of public opinion and apparent ignorance of any moral considerations have carried him beyond such dull categories as damage limitation to a gaudy place where the everyday frames of reference regarding celebrity and behaviour are simply suspended: perhaps it no longer matters exactly what Michael Jackson does, or who he does it do, just as long as he does it, and the public has its popcorn and a clear view.

So why not pay for the artificial insemination of a nurse (her 15 years (despite his brother-in-law stepping in to call the expectant mother "a liar", and her claims, "complete nonsense")? Why not breeze past the news that the child is to be placed in the gloved hands of a masked man happy to adopt Christ-like poses at award ceremonies (and whose latest celluloid project is the barely constrained metaphor of *Ghosts*, a 35-minute horror film about a shape-shifting spook reviled by adults but loved by the adoring tots who know "He didn't do anything wrong. He's not a monster.")?

Fantasy and fatherhood. One suspects that Michael Jackson either sees them as a PR pincer movement or worse, simply cannot distinguish between the two and, furthermore, hopes that we can't either. Or can, and no longer care. He may be right. Cynicism is its own trap. We are encouraged to become connoisseurs. We begin to savour our sophistication and reflex ability to make light of the dark: hey, Michael Jackson's not got a friend so he's decided to grow his own! In doing so, of course, the process obliterates the deed and gives permission to carry on regardless. Having lost our own innocence we no longer seem perturbed by the loss of it in others or troubled by the spectacle of it perhaps being feigned by expert impersonators.

story) have sex with a nurse for love (HIStory) and break the news in time for the release of the latest song? Here's the plug: it's called *Stranger in Moscow*. Why not play up the "fact" – note: at this stage of the game there are no facts, merely multiple-choice rumours and grist to the mill – that Jackson is supposed to have known the lady concerned, Debbie Rowe, for

Or maybe we just wearily realise that after so many scalpels and blades, there isn't much point in sticking knives into even the most false idol.

Reasons to go off your trolley

It is National Consumer Week, and the bad news is that you are probably off your trolley. The good news is that according to the latest survey of shopping habits, just about everyone else is as well.

"We're required to process thousands of bits of information the moment we enter a supermarket," says the consumer psychologist Sue Keane. "Our goal is simply to survive."

She paints a rather touching picture of a nation in which almost all of us (90 per cent) take the trouble to prepare for the weekly shop by making a list or checking the cupboards. And then, every week, we glide through those automatic doors and promptly lose our minds. Suddenly, almost everyone – from accountants to brain surgeons to pensioners – becomes incapable of figuring out what a kilo of tomatoes looks like. We loiter in front of "dull" products – this is what the experts call household cleaning stuff – trying to divine the true meaning of "concentrated". In condiments, we are transfixed by the conundrum of whether the two-for-three offer on jumbo tomato sauce is really for us. Then, having obsessed about saving pennies on cat food and yoghurt, we go on an impulse buying spree in chilled meals. All of this means we get our (frozen) just deserts when we get the bill.

Half of us have become angry in supermarkets over the past six months. The other half are lying

"You can see people looking at their till receipt as they come out as if they do not know what they have bought. Our ability to work out value for money has actually diminished over the years," says Sue Keane. "It should be that the more information you've got, the better shopper you are; but it just doesn't work that way."

The Procter & Gamble survey found that two-thirds of us continue to rely on imperial measurements, even though the world has gone metric, and that we want manufacturers to provide simple and clear information on packaging. It also found that 77 per cent of men find it difficult to choose household products (no surprises there) and resolve their confusion by reaching for something large with a recognisable brand.

Then we come to a worrying statistic. It seems that just over half of us have become angry or irritated in the supermarket over the past six months. The other half must have been lying – or, to use the polite expression, repressing reality – because supermarket dating has now clearly been replaced by supermarket hating.

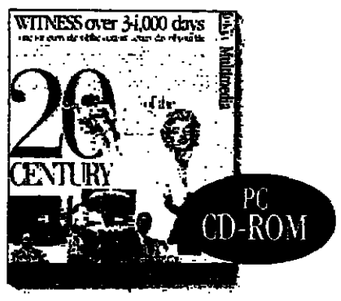
We hate the Muzak, the maddening practice of changing the location of the soup every month or so, the way the delicatessen queue only gets longer. We dislike all children in the store (especially our own), and almost all other shoppers (except those engaged in revealing pre-divorce arguments over frozen peas). We especially hate the way famous people, *à la* Barbara Follett, go to supermarkets to meet "ordinary folk". None of which has prevented a boom in supermarket business. It emerged this week, for example, that Marks & Spencer is to take on 2,000 staff in response to a rise in profits of 11 per cent.

Information overload, Guesstimation, Doublespeak. Strange people, Bad music. No wonder one of my friends finds that supermarkets are the perfect place for a good cry. I would, too, if I could only figure out which tissues are better value for money.

Ann Treneman

ON THIS DAY 1942

Church of England ends rule forcing women to wear hats in church



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obituaries / gazette

Sir Eric Drake

Eric Drake, as chairman and chief executive of the British Petroleum Company, was in many ways the archetypal oil mogul of his generation. If he had self-doubts, he did not show them. Assertive, at times domineering, he preferred action to debate and was unafraid of confrontation. In his pomp, he ranked with ministers of state, and he would not play second fiddle even in the highest company.

Forty years in a single corporate hierarchy did not make him a dull company man. It was too interesting a time for that, as the Second World War left Britain impoverished, the tide of nationalism swept across Asia and Africa, and Britain gave up her empire, relinquished overseas possessions and accepted a reduced world role.

These developments posed enormous challenges for BP. Unmistakably British, majority-owned by the British government, and owning huge investments of great strategic and economic importance in Middle East oil. BP was directly in the firing line of nationalists, who were determined to wrest control of oil from foreign oil companies. That was the central drama of Drake's time.

The son of a country doctor, Eric Drake was born in Rochester in 1910. He graduated from Pembroke College, Cambridge, with a degree in Law, but a greater fondness for rowing. After qualifying as an accountant, he joined the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company in 1935, and was posted to work in accounts at the Abadan refinery in Iran. This was not to Drake's liking; he was impatient for promotion – denied him despite his forceful (perhaps too forceful) representations.

Eventually, wartime demands for the expansion of the refinery created an opportunity for Drake to progress into general management. He made a success of it, was promoted, and in 1950 became Anglo-Iranian's general manager in Iran. This was a big job, which put Drake in charge of the giant Iranian oilfields and the huge Abadan refinery, by then the largest refinery in the world and Britain's biggest single overseas asset.

Drake was soon in a very hot spot. In 1951 the Iranian prime minister, Muhammad Musaddiq, riding a wave of nationalist anti-British feeling, nationalised Anglo-Iranian's operations in Iran. This precipitated an international crisis, in which the British and American governments became deeply involved, vainly seeking a solution until, in 1953, they resorted to covert support for a coup to depose Musaddiq. In the meantime, Drake had to deal with the tense situation in Abadan. He refused to acknowledge that oil produced by Anglo-Iranian was the property of Iran rather than Anglo-Iranian, was accused of sabotage for which the penalty might have been death and, on the advice of the British Consul, escaped to London via Iraq.

Drake recovered from his ordeal in Iran. After a spell in Australia, and a happy period as Anglo-Iranian's representative in North America, he came home in 1954, the year that Anglo-Iranian was renamed British Petroleum. Put in charge of BP's supply system, he played a prominent part in the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC)'s emergency system for fairly sharing out reduced oil supplies in Western Europe during the Suez Canal crisis of 1956-57.

Drake continued his ascent of the hierarchy, becoming a managing director of BP in 1958, deputy chairman in 1962, and chairman in 1969; a knighthood followed in 1970. He was then caught up again in a major international upheaval. This, time it was not just Iran, but all the main oil-exporting countries, organised in Opec, who sought to take control of their oil resources from the large companies like BP. The height of the crisis came in 1973 when the Arab-Israeli war broke out, the Opec countries dramatically raised the price of oil, and the Arab exporters cut oil supplies to states friendly to their arch-enemy Israel. Amidst fears of an oil shortage the oil companies tried to "equalise the misery" by spreading the cuts across the consuming nations. Drake characteristically resisted political pressures and opposed requests from Edward Heath, the Prime Minister, for BP to supply Britain with oil which was programmed for other countries.

While BP retreated before Opec, Drake's chairmanship was marked by happier developments elsewhere, most notably BP's large-scale entry into the North American oil industry after discovering a giant oilfield in Alaska, and the excitement of new discoveries in the North Sea, from which oil

Drake: no second fiddle

began to flow in 1975, the year of Drake's retirement.

In his eventful working life, Drake was always interested in ships, from oil tankers to dhows, and was for a time President of the British Chamber of Shipping. His favourite recreation was sailing and he was a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron and the Honourable Company of Master Mariners and an Elder Brother of Trinity House. After retiring from BP, he held other directorships, including that of P&O, and sat on numerous committees, governing bodies and the like. None of these, though, could compare in excitement with his time at the helm of BP.

He had a very happy family with his second wife Margaret and their two sons. Her support and interest in people and everything he did was a great source of strength to him.

James Bamberg

Arthur Eric Courtney Drake, oil company executive: born Rochester 29 November 1910; CBE 1952; deputy chairman, British Petroleum Co 1963-69, chairman 1969-75; Kt 1970; deputy chairman, P&O 1976-81; married 1935 Rosemary Moore (two daughters), 1950 Margaret Wilson (two sons); died Alresford, Hampshire 31 October 1996.

'We knew at the instant of seeing it that it was to become our home': Tangye this year at Dorminack, the 'Minack' of his chronicles Photograph: Apex

Derek Tangye

In the early 1950s Derek Tangye and his wife Jeannie were walking along the cliffs near Lamorna, above Mount's Bay in Cornwall, when they saw a buzzard drifting overhead.

Suddenly we saw below it in the distance a small grey cottage on the edge of a wood. It was as grey as the boulders heaped haphazardly around it, as grey as the ancient stone hedges which guarded long forgotten meadows. This was Minack. We knew at the instant of seeing it that it was to become our home.

The quotation is from *A Cornish Summer* (1970), the seventh in a series of autobiographical books, all bestsellers and describing their life in that cottage, their early struggles on a flower farm, and their love for the wild landscape and their various animals, that has become known as the "Minack Chronicles". The 19th, *The Confusion Room*, was published this year.

Friends in London had been amazed that this good-looking and sophisticated couple should take such a plunge. Derek had worked in Fleet Street as a gossip columnist on the *Express* and elsewhere. Jeannie had been an agony aunt on the *Mirror* and had been press officer for the Savoy Hotel Group, which inspired her book *Meet Me at the Savoy*, published under her maiden name Jean Nicol, and also a bestseller. Their friends included Danny Kaye, David Milford Haven, the photographer Baron, Beverley Nichols, A.P. Herbert, Noël Coward and Tyrone Power; also, surprisingly perhaps, George Brown, the future Foreign Secretary. It is said that when Jeannie came down the stairs at the Savoy the orchestra would strike up with the tune "Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair".

Derek Tangye had Cornish ancestry and had spent happy childhood holidays at his family home at Glendorgal, near Newquay. He had always admired a house called Boskenna at Lamorna, but when he took Jeannie to see it they decided that a simple cottage was really their ideal. Minack, or Dorminack, was certainly simple when they moved in, with an earth floor, no water and electricity, a mile down a bumpy muddy track. However they still returned once or twice a year to London, where they took a luxurious suite first at the Savoy, then at Claridges.

In 1961 Tangye published *A Girl on the Roof*, which was a great success. He and Jeannie had been adopted by a succession of cats – notably Monty and Lama – which became the heroes (or heroines) of subsequent books. *A Drake at the Door* (1963) was so named because of a pet Muscovy duck named Boris (after Pasternak), and *A Donkey in the Meadow* (1965) was in honour of Fred, a donkey rescued from the knacker's yard.

The books were illustrated by Jeannie, and nearly all were serialised in popular illustrated magazines. The fan mail grew. The Tangyes' romantic story struck a chord with many who felt that they longed to escape from the stresses of modern life. There were also pilgrimages of admirers, mostly unsolicited.

In spite of all this Derek Tangye constantly needed reassurance, as I discovered when I was his publisher. He was touchy about the promotion of other bestselling writers on country matters – Gavin Maxwell, for example, or James Herriot (tricky for us, at Michael Joseph, as Herriot was also one of our authors). He was afraid of missing out on new readers and in each book would in some way recapitulate the story of how Jeannie came to Dorminack, and then go on to the previous years' adventures which could be a shipwreck, swallows nesting for the first time under the eaves, or a gala at Lamorna village.

After I had left Michael Joseph, I used to be invited to a special post-Christmas lunch at Dorminack. The big fire blazed and the cottage would be strung with hundreds of cards from all over the world, champagne flowed and we ate in a miniature conservatory watched by donkeys from the hedge above, maybe also with a gull on the roof. Jeannie was a very good cook and baked her own bread. She died suddenly in 1986, and Derek tried for two years afterwards to keep up the tradition of these lunches. It became too much for him, and he could not be persuaded to resume them at our house, at the other end of Cornwall. Indeed, after Jeannie's death he scarcely left his patch, as he called it, except for a yearly excursion to Claridges in the old tradition.

Jeannie's funeral was made especially memorable by an address by John Le Carré. Derek also spoke of her on the television programme *Songs of Praise* in 1992, and many of us were moved to tears when Baron's photograph of her beautiful face appeared as if from the clouds. Derek's book about her, *Jeannie* (1986), also part of the "Minack Chronicles", I consider to be his best. Some time before they had bought several acres of meadow sloping down to the sea, looking out to St Michael's Mount, and when she was dying they decided to form it into a trust, the Minack Chronicles Trust, as a place for solitude and preserving natural life.

The possibility of a television series based on the books kept Derek Tangye buoyed up in his last years, when he became increasingly crippled by arthritis and gout. This and the extraordinary flow of admirers who continued to make the pilgrimage and wade through the stream known as Monty's Leap.

Raleigh Trevelyan

Derek Alan Trevithick Tangye, writer and journalist: born London 29 February 1912; married 1943 Jeannie Nicol (died 1986); died 26 October 1996.

Elisabeth Abercrombie

Elisabeth Abercrombie had a short but rewarding career as an operatic soprano, appearing at Glyndebourne before the Second World War, with Sadler's Wells Opera during, and at Covent Garden after, the war.

Born Dorothy Maud Brownlees, she did not like her given names and adopted the name Elisabeth. From the age of 17 she studied at the Royal College of Music, taking the organ as her principal subject and singing as a second study. After obtaining her degree, she took a job as organist and choir-mistress at a girls' school near Oxford.

In 1931 she married Nigel Abercrombie, then a young don at Magdalen College; a distinguished academic, civil servant and writer, he was General Secretary of the Arts Council from 1963 to 1968.

Elisabeth Abercrombie sang solos with the Oxford Bach Choir and in 1934 made her operatic début as Phoebe in Rameau's *Castor and Pollux* with the Oxford University Opera Club. Sir Thomas Beecham heard her and as a result she was offered a contract for the Covent Garden chorus; but after a meeting between her husband and John Christie, an audition for the chorus at Glyndebourne was arranged, and she accepted that offer instead, beginning in the 1935 season. She took lessons with Jani Strasser, on the music staff at Glyndebourne from its opening, and continued to work with him throughout her career.

Though she only sang one role at Glyndebourne, the Gentlewoman attending on Lady Macbeth in Verdi's *Macbeth* in 1938, she covered several of the leading soprano roles. She also sang in many of the private concerts and recitals given in the Organ Room or the theatre, with which John Christie and his wife Audrey Mildmay entertained their guests.

In 1937, calling herself "Maria Etrik" on Strasser's advice, she sang Purcell's Dido, and Venus in John Blow's *Venus and Adonis* (which was televised) for Oxford University Opera Club. In 1939 she took part in a Cambridge University production of Mozart's *Idomeneo*, singing the role of Electra.

During the early war years, Abercrombie toured with the Glyndebourne Singers, giving concerts mostly of Mozart's music all over Britain. In 1942, she joined Sadler's Wells Opera, which was virtually homeless during the war, touring the country and playing in London at the New Theatre (now the Albery) or the Princess.

Abercrombie's beautiful voice was at its best at this time, and her roles included Violetta in *La Traviata* (her favourite), Mimi in *La Bohème* and Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutti*. In all these operas she was partnered by Peter Pears, a fellow chorus singer at pre-war Glyndebourne.

After the war, Abercrombie appeared for several seasons (1947-51) with the newly formed Covent Garden Opera Company. She sang the Marschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*, the Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro* and Ellen Orford in *Peter Grimes*. In 1951 she sang in the premiere of Vaughan Williams's *The Pilgrim's Progress* as one of the two Heavenly Beings who revive Pilgrim in the

Abercrombie: a beautiful voice

Valley of Humiliation. After retiring she became a very successful private singing teacher.

Elizabeth Forbes

Dorothy Maud Brownlees (Elisabeth Abercrombie), singer: born Plymouth 29 August 1906; married 1931 Nigel Abercrombie (died 1986; two daughters); died 23 October 1996.

Eleanor Dulles

Eleanor Lansing Dulles was the granddaughter, the niece and the sister of US Secretaries of State. She was also a talented woman of strong character in her own right.

Her career moved with distinction from the study of economics into diplomacy. She served as the head of the State Department's Berlin desk during the days of the Berlin Airlift and the Cold War, and in later life wrote more than a dozen books, among them a memoir of her brother, John Foster Dulles, and an autobiography, *Chances of a Lifetime* (1980).

Her grandfather, John Watson Foster, was a Civil War general turned international lawyer who served as Secretary of State in the Administration of President Benjamin Harrison. Her mother married Allen Macy Dulles, pastor of the First Presbyterian church in Watertown, in western New York State.

Eleanor, like her two brothers, the future Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, and Allen, who became Director of Central Intelligence after a legendary career as America's most successful spy and spymaster, was "borrowed" for two months a year by her grandfather, one of the richest and most successful lawyers in Washington.

She went to Bryn Mawr, a small, highly academic women's college in the suburbs of Philadelphia, and by 1918 had wangled her way to France, where she worked in a civilian relief agency. On Armistice Day she annoyed her brother Allen, a delegate to the Peace Conference, by turning up unannounced to take a hot bath in his suite at the Hotel Crillon.

By this stage her uncle, Robert W. Lansing, a Democrat, had become President Woodrow Wilson's Secretary of State. Eleanor qualified as an economist, and worked on international banking and finance; her first published book was a study of the Bank for International Settlements in Basle.

At the end of the Second World War she went to Austria as economic adviser to the Allied military government there, and then moved into the State Department. Her most important job was as head of the Berlin desk in the 1950s. She was extremely annoyed when the Russian and East German intelligence authorities discovered a tunnel dug by the CIA to tap into Communist communications cabling. "It's all Allen's fault," she said in her frustration at having to sweep up the diplomatic consequences of her brother's coup.

She and Allen had irritated each other since childhood, and were never close. In the 1950s, however, she built a bungalow for herself near McLean, Virginia, just down the road from the site where her brother would build the CIA's permanent home at Langley. Occasionally middle-ranking diplomats invited to lunch would be startled to find the Secretary of State and the Director of Central Intelligence, in baggy shorts and Hawaiian shirts, sipping drinks by the pool. These high-level contacts would of course be faithfully reported to their respective chanceries.

Godfrey Hodgson

Eleanor Lansing Dulles, diplomat and writer: born Watertown, New York 1 June 1895; married 1932 David Blondheim (died 1934; one son, one daughter); died Washington DC 30 October 1996.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

LLOYD: On Sunday 27 October, at Trinity Hospice, London SW4, peacefully, after a long illness bravely fought, Dawn Elizabeth Margaret (nee Stulgoe), wife of the late Trevor Lloyd, stepmother of Rachel and Simon and sister of Robin, Richard and George. No flowers, please, but donations if desired to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, 15/19 Britten Street, London SW3 3TZ. Service of Thanksgiving at 12 noon on 28 November at St Stephen's, Gloucester Road, London SW7.

RAPOPORT: Robert Norman Rapoport, social anthropologist, aged 72, died 4 November in Hampstead, after an accidental fall. His loss is devastating for his wife Rhona, daughter Lorna, son Al and two grandchildren Tuvo and Iola. Friends and family will gather in celebration of his talents, his love and his life on Thursday 7 November, 4pm, Golders Green Crematorium.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line. VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Birthdays

Dr James Barber, Master, Hatfield College, Durham, 65; Professor Lord Bauer, economist, 81; Mr James Bowman, operatic counter-tenor, 55; Mr Frank Carson, comedian, 70; M Jacques Charrier, actor, 60; Mr Ray Coniff, song-writer and arranger, 80; Mr David Exham, Headmaster, Bloxham School, 52; Miss Sally Field, actress, 50; Dr Keith Griffin, economist, 58; Mr Nigel Havers, actor, 47; Mr Bernat Klein, designer, 74; Mr Leonard Miall, historian, 82; Mr David Montgomery, chief executive, Mirror Group Newspapers, 48; Admiral Sir Anthony Morton, King of Arms, Order of the British Empire, 73; Mr Mike Nichols, film and theatre director, 65; Lord Nimmo Smith, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 54; Mr P.J. Proby, rock singer, 58; General Sir David Ramsbotham, former Adjutant General, 62; Professor Sir Martin Roth, psychiatrist, 79; Mr Ron Saunders, football manager, 64; Sir Oliver Scott Bt, radiobiologist, 74; Sir George Sinclair, former colonial administrator, 84; Mr Malcolm Thyne, Headmaster, Fettes College, 54; Mr Graeme Wood, cricketer, 40.

Anniversaries

Births: Colley Cibber, actor and playwright, 1671; Adolphe (Antoine-Joseph) Sax, inventor of the saxophone, 1814. **Deaths:** John Murray (McMurray), publisher, 1793; Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, composer, 1893; Gene Eliza Tierney, actress, 1991. **On this day:** Abraham Lincoln was elected as 16th US president, 1860; the United States exploded the first hydrogen bomb at Eniwetok Atoll, in the Pacific, 1952. **Today** is the Feast Day of St Barlaam of Khutyn, St Demetrian of Khytri, St Illtud, St Leonard of Noblac, St Melaine and St Winnoc.

Lectures

National Gallery: Lisa Tickner, "Walter Sickert, *The Camden Town Murder* and tabloid crime", 6.30pm (Paul Mellon Lecture).

Tate Gallery: Jeremy Black, "Responses to Italy and France", 1pm; David Sylvester, "Francis Bacon 1933-57", 6.30pm.

National Portrait Gallery: Alan Fern, "Best Faces Forward: the history and collections of the National Portrait Gallery, Washington", 1.10pm.

British Archaeological Association (held at Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, London W1): Ole Schiorring, "Twenty-five years of Urban Archaeology in Denmark", 5pm.

Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Tom Cannon, "Yesterday's Education for Tomorrow's Business", 1pm.

Receptions

Ministry of Defence

Mr Michael Portillo MP hosted a reception held yesterday evening at Lancaster House, St James's, London SW1, to meet the Commonwealth Defence and Service Advisers and Attachés in the United Kingdom.

Luncheons

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr Jeremy Hanley MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, hosted a lunch held yesterday at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London SW1, for Mr Li Lanqing, Vice-Premier of China.

Dinners

English-Speaking Union

Professor Alan Watson, Deputy Chairman, English-Speaking Union, and Mrs Valerie Mitchell, Director-General, received the guests at a reception and dinner held yesterday evening at Dartmouth House, London W1, to celebrate the American Presidential Election. Mr William J. Crowe Jnr, Ambassador, was among the guests.

Foundation for Science and Technology

Lord Butterworth was in the chair at a lecture and dinner discussion held yesterday evening at the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Mr Gerald R. Wilson, Professor Sir Graeme Davies and Mr Charles Skene were the speakers. Their subject was "Business and Universities Growing Together. What are the issues?"

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal, President of the Patrons, Crime Concern, chairs the Regional Launch of RoadRunners at the Heartlands High School, Birmingham; as President, Riding for the Disabled Association, attends the National Conference (Riding/Driving Demonstrations) at the National Equestrian Centre, National Agricultural Centre, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, and attends the National Conference Reception and Dinner. Princess Margaret, President, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, attends the society's annual "Brain Game" and Dinner at Middle Temple, London EC4. The Duke of Kent, President, attends an Automobile Association Committee Meeting, at Norfolk House, Basingstoke, Hampshire. Princess Alexandra visits Ilford Limited, Mobberley, Cheshire; as President, visits the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Shop, Alderley Edge, Cheshire; and as Vice-President, British Red Cross Society, opens Memorial House, the new County Headquarters, in Knutsford, Cheshire. Prince Michael of Kent attends the New Namics Foundation Recital at Asprey's, London W1.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

Bank can be sued in UK over timeshare deal

LAW REPORT

6 November 1996

Jarrett v Barclays Bank plc and related appeals; Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Morritt, Lord Justice Ward, Lord Justice Potter) **31 October 1996**

A couple induced to buy a timeshare property in a foreign country on the basis of misrepresentations by the seller could bring proceedings in the UK under the Consumer Credit Act 1974 against the bank which financed the deal. While the agreement concerned might be a "tenancy" under European law, the "object" of the claims was not the tenancy itself but the finance agreement, so the buyers were not required by article 16 of the Brussels Convention on Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments to bring their claim in the country where the property was situated.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by Trevor and Elizabeth Jarrett against the dismissal by Judge Brandt, sitting at Ipswich County Court on 19 April 1995, of their claim against Barclays Bank plc and the Royal Bank of Scotland. The court also allowed an appeal by Peter and Denise Jones against the dismissal by Judge Hamilton, at Liverpool County Court on 30 August 1995, of their claim against First National Bank plc, and dismissed an appeal by that bank against a decision of Judge Jack, at Bristol County Court on 1 February 1996, allowing a claim brought against it by Judith and Christopher Peacock to go ahead.

In each case the plaintiffs had entered into agreements to buy annual timeshare properties abroad, using finance provided by the banks. They claimed they had been induced into signing the agreements by misrepresentations by the sellers, and that under sections 56 and 75 of the 1974 Act the banks were liable.

By section 56 "antecedent negotiations" with the debtor in relation to a transaction financed by a "debtor-creditor-supplier agreement" were deemed to be conducted by the supplier on behalf of the creditor as well as himself. By section 75(1):

If the debtor under a debtor-creditor-supplier agreement . . . has, in relation to a transaction financed by the agreement, any claim against the supplier in respect of a misrepresentation or breach of contract, he shall have a like claim against the creditor, who, with the supplier, shall accordingly be jointly and severally liable to the debtor.

The banks contended that these were "proceedings which have as their object rights in rem in immovable property or tenancies of immovable property" within the meaning of article 16 of the Convention (as incorporated into English law by the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982) so that "the courts of the Contracting State in which the property is situated" had exclusive jurisdiction; that by article 19 the UK courts were bound to decline jurisdiction; and that the plaintiffs' claims should be struck out.

John Williams (Carruthers & Co, Cambridge) for the Jarretts; Neil Levy (Kennan Bell & Co, Liverpool, and Moriarty Westlake, Bristol) for the Joneses and Peacocks; Sam Neaman (Shoosmith & Harrison, Northampton) for Barclays; Fred Philpott and Julia Smith (Manby & Steward, Wolverhampton) for RBS; Peter Sayer (Davis & Co, Harrow) for FNB.

Lord Justice Morritt said the question whether the timeshare agreements were tenancies (or the grant of rights *in rem* over immovable property) within article 16 must be determined in accordance with the interpretation of the European Court of Justice.

No uniform interpretation had yet emerged but in the light of the court's decision in *Rosler v Rottwinkel* [1986] QB 33 that a short-term holiday letting was not excluded from article 16, his Lordship could see no reason for denying to the agreements in the present appeals the status of tenancies. In each case one party was entitled to the exclusive occupation of immovable property assumed by the contract to be owned by the other for a specified period in return for a sum of money.

But his Lordship did not accept the banks' submission that the timeshare agreements were the "object" of the proceedings under the Consumer Credit Act.

In each action the foundation of the claim against the bank was the debtor-creditor-supplier agreement. That contract had attached to it the personal statutory rights conferred by the Act on the debtor. The enforcement of those statutory rights was based on the debtor-creditor-supplier agreement, not the timeshare agreement.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

هكذا من الأصل

unit trusts

Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Foreign Exchange Rates

STERLING Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	DOLLAR Spot	1 month	3 months	D-MARK Spot
US	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	—	—	[illegible]
Canada	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Germany	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
France	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Italy	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Japan	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ECU	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Belgium	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Denmark	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Netherlands	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ireland	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Norway	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Spain	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sweden	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Switzerland	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Australia*	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hong Kong	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Malaysia	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
New Zealand*	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Saudi Arabia	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Singapore	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	[illegible]	[illegible]	Nigeria	[illegible]	[illegible]
Austria	[illegible]	[illegible]	Oman	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brazil	[illegible]	[illegible]	Pakistan	[illegible]	[illegible]
China	[illegible]	[illegible]	Philippines	[illegible]	[illegible]
Egypt	[illegible]	[illegible]	Portugal	[illegible]	[illegible]
Finland	[illegible]	[illegible]	Qatar	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ghana	[illegible]	[illegible]	Russia	[illegible]	[illegible]
Greece	[illegible]	[illegible]	South Africa	[illegible]	[illegible]
India	[illegible]	[illegible]	Taiwan	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kuwait	[illegible]	[illegible]	UAE	[illegible]	[illegible]

Tourist Rates

£ Buys		£ Buys		£ Buys	
Australia Dollars	2.0175	France(Francs)	8.1170	New Zealand Dollars	[illegible]
Austria Schillings	16.3000	Germany (Marks)	2.4285	Norway (Kroner)	[illegible]
Belgium Francs	49.5000	Greece(Drachmas)	389.0000	Portugal (Escudos)	[illegible]
Canada Dollars	2.1340	Hong Kong(Dollars)	12.3600	Spain (Pesetas)	[illegible]
Cyprus (Pounds)	0.7300	Ireland(Punts)	0.8710	Sweden (Kroner)	[illegible]
Denmark (Kroner)	12.2000	Italy (Lira)	2480.0000	Switzerland (Francs)	[illegible]
Finland (Markkaa)	7.7040	Japan(Yen)	183.0000	Turkey (Lira)	152733.0000
Finland Marks	7.9850	Malta(Lira)	0.5630	United States (Dollars)	1.6030

Interest Rates

UK		Germany		US		Japan
Base	6.00%	Discount	2.50%	Prime	8.25%	Discount
France		Lombard	4.50%	Discount	5.00%	Belgium
intervention	3.25%	Canada		Fed Funds	5.25%	Discount
Italy		Prime	5.00%	Spain		Denmark
Discount	7.5%	Discount	5.00%	10-Day Repo	6.75%	Switzerland
Netherlands		Denmark		Sweden		Discount
Advances	2.50%	Discount	3.25%	Repo (Aw)	4.60%	Lombard

Bond Yields

Country	5 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %	Country	5 yr	Yield %	10 yr	yield %
UK	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Netherlands	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
US	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Spain	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
JAPAN	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Italy	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Australia	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Belgium	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Germany	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sweden	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
France	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	ECU DAT	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: HSBC Markets Research. Yields calculated on local basis. ** Denotes new benchmark

Money Market Rates

	O'Night	7 Day	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
Interbank	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs	-	-	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Local Authority Deps	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Discount Houses Deps	[illegible]	[illegible]	-	-	-	-
Treasury Bills (Buy)	-	-	[illegible]	-	-	-
Dollar CDs	-	-	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ECU Linked Dep	-	-	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract		Settlement price	High/Low for day	Est Contls traded	Open Interest
Long Gilt	(Dec 96)	108-14	108-25 108-13	50081	147001
German Gvt Bd	(Dec 96)	3948	3955 3934	87685	255879
Italian Bond	(Dec 96)	123.70	123.74 123.05	38214	87384
Japan Gvt Bd	(Dec 96)	125.30	125.37 125.30	193	n/a
3 Mth Sterling	(Dec 96)	93.67	93.69 93.66	17917	99655
	(Mar 97)	93.39	93.43 93.39	23820	97331
3 Mth Euromark	(Dec 96)	96.78	96.79 96.75	21130	294431
	(Mar 97)	96.72	96.73 96.69	30503	190646
3 Mth Eurolira	(Dec 96)	92.86	92.88 92.80	8350	69776
	(Mar 97)	93.33	93.36 93.15	10896	57316
3 Mth Euryen	(Mar 97)	99.37		0	n/a
3 Mth Euroswiss	(Dec 96)	97.92	97.96 97.79	9408	30673
	(Mar 97)	97.77	97.93 97.76	8738	30659
3 Mth ECU	(Dec 96)	95.79	95.80 95.78	200	7499
	(Mar 97)	95.75	95.76 95.72	119	5275
FTSE 100	(Dec 96)	3948.0	3978.0 3945.0	9770	61898
FTSE 250	(Dec 96)	4443.0		0	4629

Liffe FTSE Index Option

Settlement price: 3925.00 closing offer price

Series	3850	3900	3950	4000	Call/Put Total/vols
Nov	96/10	57/21	26/42	9/78	--
Dec	135/35	99/50	66/70	42/98	--
Jan	158/50	123/67	91/88	67/115	--
Feb	181/68	148/83	115/102	91/129	--

Commodities

INDUSTRIAL METALS - London Metal Exchange

$/tonne	Cash	3 mths	Volume	LME Stocks	chg
Aluminum HG(99.5-99.8)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aluminum Alloy	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Copper A	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lead	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nickel	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tin	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zinc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Settlement Conversion £/$ 1.6373 £/Dm 3.3109 £/Y 150.20

Stock volumes & change in tonnes as at Fri 1 Nov '96

PRECIOUS METALS

pm fix / oz	$	£	Coins	$	£		$	£
Gold	[illegible]	[illegible]	Britannia	[illegible]	[illegible]	Krugrands	[illegible]	[illegible]
Platinum	[illegible]	[illegible]	Britannia 5 oz	[illegible]	[illegible]	Sovs	[illegible]	[illegible]
Palladium	[illegible]	[illegible]	Britannia 25 oz	[illegible]	[illegible]	Nobles	[illegible]	[illegible]
Silver spot	[illegible]	[illegible]	Britannia 10 oz	[illegible]	[illegible]	Maple Leaf	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gold Bullion	[illegible]	[illegible]						

Source: Coins & Bullion

AGRICULTURAL

Cocoa		Coffee		Barley		Potatoes		Potatoes
LCE	£/tonne	LCE	$/tonne	LCE	£/tonne	LCE	£/tonne	ADA Gd 10kg
Dec	[illegible]	Nov	[illegible]	Nov	[illegible]	Nov	[illegible]	-
Mar	[illegible]	Jan	[illegible]	Jan	[illegible]	Mar	[illegible]	[illegible]
May	[illegible]	Mar	[illegible]	Mar	[illegible]	Apr	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vol	[illegible]	Vol:	[illegible]	Vol:	[illegible]	Vol:	[illegible]	[illegible]

White Sugar		Freight		Wheat		Corn	
LCE	$/tonne	LCE	$/index pt	LCE	£/tonne	CBOT#	Cents/bushel
Dec	[illegible]	Oct	[illegible]	Nov	[illegible]		Hi-Lo Sett
Mar	[illegible]	Nov	[illegible]	Jan	[illegible]	Dec	[illegible]
May	[illegible]	Vol	[illegible]	Mar	[illegible]	Mar	[illegible]
Vol	n/a	Index	212	Vol:	[illegible]	May	[illegible]

Other Softs (Agricultural)

Nov	Meal (No3)**	$/tonne	[illegible]	Nov	Soya Oil	FL/100kg	[illegible]
Nov	Copra (T)	$/tonne	[illegible]	Nov	Coconut Oil (T)	$/tonne	[illegible]
Dec	Cotton (NY)	US cents/lb	[illegible]	Nov	Sunflower Oil	$/tonne	[illegible]
Dec	Wool	Aust/kg	[illegible]	Nov	Rapeseed Oil	FL/100kg	[illegible]
Dec	Rubber*	Cents/kg	[illegible]	Nov	Groundnut Oil	$/tonne	[illegible]

Delays: (C)Liffe LE - early origin *FT-Reuters Index Values **Liffe Europe Soybean ** FT Information Services

ENERGY

Brent Crude	($/barrel)	Gasoil	($/tonne)	WTI	Products †	($/tonne)
IPE	5.30pm	*chg	Yr ago	IPE	close	*chg	6pm Spot CIF North West Europe
Dec	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Nov	[illegible]	[illegible]	Dec	[illegible]	Unleaded Gasoline	[illegible]
Jan	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Dec	[illegible]	[illegible]	Jan	[illegible]	Heavy Fuel Oil	[illegible]
Feb	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Jan	[illegible]	[illegible]	Feb	[illegible]	Naphtha	[illegible]
Vol	[illegible]	Index	[illegible]	Vol	[illegible]	Mar	[illegible]	EC Gasoil	[illegible]

*since 5.30pm previous day. Yes, ago prices show average for week. Source: ICE London Oil Report via Telerate Limited

COMMODITY INDICES

*DJSGI Indices	Base date	+Spot	%Day Chg	Dec 31st	% Yr to date chg	Year ago	% Yr chg
Index	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Agricultural	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Energy	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Industrial Metals	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Livestock	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Precious Metals	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Goldman Sachs & Co. *DJSGI is a trademark and servicemark of Goldman, Sachs & Co. †Close as of 1 November

100 Largest Insurance Funds

Stock	Bid	Mid	Offer	Stock	Bid	Mid	Offer
Abbey Equity Ser 4	[illegible]		[illegible]	Legal & General Managed Accum	[illegible]		[illegible]
Abbey International Ser 4	[illegible]		[illegible]	London & Manchester Flexible Acc		[illegible]	
Abbey Managed Ser 4	[illegible]		[illegible]	London Equity		[illegible]	
Abbey Nationwide Managed	[illegible]		[illegible]	London Mixed		[illegible]	
Abbey National UK Equity	[illegible]		[illegible]	M & G Managed Bond Acc	[illegible]		[illegible]
Albany Equity Acc Ser 3	[illegible]		[illegible]	M & G Recovery Bond Acc	[illegible]		[illegible]
Albany Multiple Inv Acc 53	[illegible]		[illegible]	Merchant Investors Managed	[illegible]		[illegible]
Allied Dunbar Distribution Bond	[illegible]		[illegible]	Midland Balanced	[illegible]		[illegible]
Allied Dunbar Equity Acc	[illegible]		[illegible]	Midland UK Equity	[illegible]		[illegible]
Allied Dunbar Ser 4 High Income Ser	[illegible]		[illegible]	NatWest Growth Managed	[illegible]		[illegible]
Allied Dunbar Managed Acc	[illegible]		[illegible]	NatWest Security Mgd	[illegible]		[illegible]
Allied Dunbar Property Acc	[illegible]		[illegible]	NatWest UK Equity	[illegible]		[illegible]
AXA Equity & Law Bal Ser 6	[illegible]		[illegible]	Norwich Union Mgd Ex NUAM MF	[illegible]		[illegible]
AXA Equity & Law Dist Ser 6	[illegible]		[illegible]	Norwich Union Unitised Managed	[illegible]		[illegible]
AXA Equity & Law Hi Inc Ser 6	[illegible]		[illegible]	Norwich Union Unitised With Profits	[illegible]		[illegible]
AXA Equity & Law UK Eq Ser 6	[illegible]		[illegible]	NPI Managed	[illegible]		[illegible]
Barclays Equity Acc	[illegible]		[illegible]	Pearl Equity Mgd	[illegible]		[illegible]
Barclays International Acc	[illegible]		[illegible]	Prudential Prland Managed	[illegible]		[illegible]
Barclays Managed Acc	[illegible]		[illegible]	Prudential Intl Mgd Ser 2	[illegible]		[illegible]
Black Horse Income Fund Ser 2	[illegible]		[illegible]	Royal Life Managed	[illegible]		[illegible]
Black Horse Mngd Inc Ser 2	[illegible]		[illegible]	Royal Scottish Growth Managed	[illegible]		[illegible]
Canada Managed Ser 2	[illegible]		[illegible]	Royal Scottish UK Equity	[illegible]		[illegible]
Old Fed Equity	[illegible]		[illegible]	Scottish Amicable Equity Ser 1	[illegible]		[illegible]
Old Fed Extreme Neec	[illegible]		[illegible]	Scottish Amicable Managed Ser 1	[illegible]		[illegible]
Old Mutual Fixed Bond	[illegible]		[illegible]	Scottish Equitable Managed	[illegible]		[illegible]
Commercial Union Managed	[illegible]		[illegible]	Scottish Life Managed	[illegible]		[illegible]
Commercial Union UK Equity	[illegible]		[illegible]	Scottish Mutual Safety	[illegible]		[illegible]
Commercial Union With Profit	[illegible]		[illegible]	Scot Prov Int Blue Chip	[illegible]		[illegible]
Eagle Star Managed 2	[illegible]		[illegible]	Scot Prov Int With-Profits	[illegible]		[illegible]
Family Performance	[illegible]		[illegible]	Scottish Widows International	[illegible]		[illegible]
Friends Provident Managed	[illegible]		[illegible]	Scottish Widows Mngd	[illegible]		[illegible]
Friends Provident UK Equity	[illegible]		[illegible]	Standard Equity	[illegible]		[illegible]
Friends Provident With Profit	[illegible]		[illegible]	Standard Managed	[illegible]		[illegible]
General Accident With Profit	[illegible]		[illegible]	Standard Far East	[illegible]		[illegible]
GA Prov Mutual Eq Org	[illegible]		[illegible]	Standard Fixed Interest	[illegible]		[illegible]
GA Prov Mutual Mgd Ord	[illegible]		[illegible]	Standard Managed	[illegible]		[illegible]
Gen Managed	[illegible]		[illegible]	Sun Alliance Equity	[illegible]		[illegible]
GRE Equity Acc	[illegible]		[illegible]	Sun Alliance Managed	[illegible]		[illegible]
GRE International Acc	[illegible]		[illegible]	Sun Life Deferred Distribution	[illegible]		[illegible]
GRE Managed Acc	[illegible]		[illegible]	Sun Life Distribution	[illegible]		[illegible]
Hill Samuel Equity	[illegible]		[illegible]	Sun Life Equity Acc	[illegible]		[illegible]
Hill Samuel Managed Ser A	[illegible]		[illegible]	Sun Life Managed Acc	[illegible]		[illegible]
Impl Life Global Mgd Prem Ser 3	[illegible]		[illegible]	Sun Life Gen Century Eq		147	
J Rothschild Ind Price Mgd	[illegible]		[illegible]	Sun Life Gen Century Mgd		147	
Laurentian Internat UK Mgd Acc	[illegible]		[illegible]	Sun Life Gen Maple Leaf Eq Acc	[illegible]		[illegible]
Laurentian Managed Acc Ser 3	[illegible]		[illegible]	Sun Life Gen Maple Leaf Mgd Acc	[illegible]		[illegible]
Laurentian UK Equity Acc	[illegible]		[illegible]	TSB Equity	[illegible]		[illegible]
Legal & General Equity Acc	[illegible]		[illegible]	TSB Homebuyer	[illegible]		[illegible]
Legal & General International Acc	[illegible]		[illegible]	TSB Managed	[illegible]		[illegible]

UNIT TRUST GUIDE

d ex dividend
e exit charge applies when units are sold
buy formerly 'offer'
sell formerly 'bid'
x Non SIB recognised funds

business & city

Business news desk: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098
BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

BT tipped to win £1bn armed forces phone contract

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

The Government is expected to reveal today that BT has beaten Racal Electronics in a battle to win a £1bn contract to replace the vast private telephone network used by the armed forces.

The announcement, which will be made by the Ministry of Defence in the Commons, would mark another success for BT in the week it announced its £13bn agreement to buy the US long-distance operator MCI.

However, it would represent a severe blow for Racal, which had launched a vigorous campaign attacking the BT bid, arguing it was against the public interest.

The contract is to renew the dedicated telephone and data network which connects UK military bases, known as DFTS, or Defence Fixed Telecommunications System. The outdated network is run by BT.

The MoD has already reduced the annual cost of running the system from £200m to £175m but was seeking further cuts of at least £40m. The other condition was that the web of 51 separate networks should be replaced by a single digital network by 2000.

Racal had formed a consortium called Rampart to bid to build and operate the system with partners Logica and a consultancy firm, WS Atkins. A key element of the Rampart bid was that it would guarantee to employ all 600 existing civilian telecoms staff and take on a further 250 people.

In contrast, BT has kept the details of its bid a close secret, though it is thought it may offer a larger one-off price cut than Racal's with similar total costs over the 10-year life of the contract.

BT yesterday refrained from claiming victory ahead of the official announcement, though its team is thought to be confident of success.

Last night a Racal spokesman declined to forecast the outcome of the bidding processs, which has lasted for 18 months. He said: "We are not aware of a decision until it has been announced and we remain totally committed to our solution for DFTS."

Two months ago David Elsbury, Racal's chief executive, stepped up his attack on BT, claiming the two groups were running neck and neck in the race to win the contract. "I believe it is on a knife-edge. There is not a fag paper between us. The difference is political," he had claimed.

Mr Elsbury had said that if BT won the contract it would effectively rule out any further competition in the future. He also pointed out that the annual value of the 10-year deal, at £100m, was "a drop in the ocean" to BT but would represented 10 per cent of Racal's annual sales.

Racal Electronics already runs data networks for 40 Government departments, in addition to operating private phone systems for the Department of Social Security, along with the chemicals group ICI, Norwich Union and WH Smith. It also runs the huge network which links National Lottery terminals.

If the MoD does pick BT as the preferred bidder for DFTS, it would come as Racal seeks to to identify its strategy following the lucrative demerger of the mobile phone company, Vodafone, and its Chubb locks business. Racal has concentrated on managed telephones and data networks and defence electronics products against accusations that it is left with underperforming assets.

BA accounts dept sent to Bombay to save on wages

Michael Harrison

British Airways is to transfer part of its accounting operations to Bombay because wages levels in India are one-fifth of those in Britain. The move is part of BA's global efficiency drive aimed at producing savings of £1bn a year by the end of the decade. The programme will result in 5,000 job losses.

BA's accounting operations employ 2,000 people. Initially about 10 per cent of the work will be transferred to Bombay, where qualified staff can be recruited on wages of about £4,000 a year compared with £20,000 in Britain.

But more accountancy work will be outsourced if the experiment proves successful. "It is a lot cheaper employing people in India," said BA's finance director Derek Stevens. "We can get high calibre people for 20 per cent of the cost of employing them here."

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, said the airline was looking to outsource more activities as part of the ambitious cost-cutting drive. He said the 12 per cent increase in BA's salary bill experienced in the first half of the year was not sustainable.

He was speaking as BA reported its first drop in operating profits since the Gulf War owing to spiralling fuel prices and the cost of last summer's threatened strike by pilots.

BA also confirmed that it expected Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, to announce this month whether its transatlantic alliance with American Airlines is being allowed to go ahead.

Mr Ayling was speaking as BA reported a 2 per cent drop in operating profits to £512m for the six months to the end of September – the first time profits have fallen since Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

The decline was due to a £51m increase in aviation fuel costs and the £15m impact of the threatened pilots strike earlier this year. BA also warned that fuel costs were likely to hardened further in the current quarter because of the rise in oil prices.

With jet kerosene prices likely to hit 85 cents a gallon this winter against 60 cents a gallon a year ago, BA could be looking at an extra £130m in fuel charges a year.

At the pre-tax level, BA's profits rose by 9 per cent to a record £470m, helped by a £45m contribution from its associate airlines. Qantas chipped in £26m in pre-tax profits and a further £19m of synergy benefits, while USAir, in which BA has a 24.6 per cent stake, paid a resumed dividend of $17.3m.

Mr Ayling said he still hoped to persuade USAir to maintain its long-term relationship with BA even though the US carrier has said it intends to abandon its codeshare agreement with BA next March in protest at the link-up with American.

He added that USAir's antitrust lawsuit against BA and American was "an action without merit and any hope whatsoever of success" and said the two carriers remained as determined as ever to pull the deal together.

Asked when he expected Mr Lang to rule on the alliance, Mr Ayling said: "If we haven't passed the milestone of the British competition authorities by the end of this month I would be disappointed."

Mr Ayling also said BA would continue to resist any attempt to strip it of take-off and landing slots at Heathrow as a condition for approving the alliance. "I still do not see any case for BA losing slots. It would be terribly unfair apart from anything else."

Comment, page 21

French court clears Air Liberté takeover

A French commercial court last night cleared the way for British Airways to take control of the regional airline Air Liberté in a deal that will give it a one-fifth share of domestic flights from Orly airport, *writes Michael Harrison*.

BA is to invest £55m and take a 67 per cent stake in Air Liberté, while the French banking group Banque Rivaud will invest Fr190m for the remaining 33 per cent.

Marc Rochet, chairman of BA's existing French subsidiary, TAT European Airlines, will become chairman and chief executive of Air Liberté, although the two carriers will be kept distinct for the time being.

Clearance for the takeover came after the Commercial Tribunal in Creteil accepted the recovery plan for Air Liberté put forward by BA and Rivaud in preference to liquidation.

The plan is designed to return Air Liberté to profitability in three years and will safeguard 1,200 jobs. BA has pledged to retain Air Liberté's fleet of 13 aircraft, increase frequencies on services from Orly to Bordeaux and Nice and resume services from Paris to Montpellier and Gatwick to Bordeaux and Toulouse.

"This is good news for the airline, for its staff and for French air travellers," said BA's chief executive Bob Ayling.

Bob Ayling: Takeover 'good for French travellers'

Ready and willing: Hugh Stevenson said that Mercury Asset Management was happy to participate in changing the underwriting system Photograph: Andrew Buurman

MAM chief backs cheaper underwriting

Peter Rodgers
Financial Editor

Hugh Stevenson, chairman of Mercury Asset Management, yesterday backed moves to introduce competition into the underwriting commissions charged for rights issues, as Schroders launched its second cut-price financing in five days.

Schroders auctioned 86 per cent of the underwriting for a £48.6m rights issue for More Group, the outdoor advertising company, to help fund the acquisition of Swedish advertising group Wennergren Williams. The auction saved the company £109,000 – 11 per cent of the commissions – at the expense of investing institutions such as MAM.

The move follows a similar auction for Stakis, the hotels group, last Thursday, which saved 8 per cent. It is an attempt to head off a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry into high City underwriting commissions.

Mr Stevenson said: "We welcome anything that gives a freer system for underwriting." He said that as long as preemption rights were upheld, giving existing shareholders first call on new issues, "we are ready to participate in the process of change".

Reporting interim profits at MAM 29 per cent higher than a year earlier at £81.8m before tax, Mr Stevenson made clear that the fund management group could be in the market for acquisitions.

There was speculation that MAM's sharply increased cash pile, up £72m to £262m in six months, could be used to finance a bid in the US market, following the announcement of the proposed takeover of Texas-based AIM by Invesco.

Mr Stevenson said: "The US is an important market. It's the biggest savings market in the world but value for our shareholders is the main aim."

MAM has built up its cash pile over the past six months from £191m to £261m. Mr Stevenson said that the company preferred a conservative balance sheet. Funds under management rose from £81bn in March to £85.9bn in September, including £2bn of net new business and 40 new mandates to manage money purchase pension schemes.

The figures suggest MAM will slip into second place among independent UK fund managers, behind Invesco, when its takeover of AIM goes through. The merged company, Amvesco, will have £91bn under management at present dollar exchange rates.

MAM declared an interim dividend of 10p a share, compared with last year's 6p, but the sharp increase was to reduce the imbalance between the interim and final. An increase in provisions for bonus payments for staff was responsible for part of the £22m increase in operating costs to £104m over the past 12 months. The shares fell 20p to 1122.5p.

Comment, page 21

Fayed pays £52m for Alpha stake

JOHN WILLCOCK

Mohamed Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, has paid £52m for a 25 per cent stake in Alpha Airports in an attempt to extend Harrods' airport retailing operations. Alpha has 80 shops in the UK and the US.

Mr Fayed has bought the Alpha stake from Granada using one of his private companies, Cylena Establishments, rather than through Harrods. Cylena said last night that in the absence of a third party offer, it will not make an offer for the remaining shares of Alpha for at least six months.

Harrods already owns "signature shops" in Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore, and runs tax free shops in Heathrow, as well as airports in Hamburg, Vienna and Frankfurt.

Alpha Retail Services, with a turnover in 1995/6 of nearly £300m, operates an extensive range of duty and tax free shops in airports, many of which are simply called "Duty Free Shopping." Alpha also operates airport shops under licence from Drugstore, Swatch, Lillywhites, Timberland, The Beauty Centre and others.

It is understood that Mr Fayed believes that Alpha's other two operating divisions may also enjoy synergies with some of his other interests.

Alpha Ground Services has over 50 airport locations in the US with a combined turnover of £42.4m, while Mr Fayed owns Metro Business Aviation, previously Hunting Aviation, which provides ground services at Heathrow. Alpha also provides in-flight catering, providing 40 million meals a year to a total of 100 airlines.

Alpha said the sale via Lazards to Mr Fayed came as "an unexpected development".

"We have had no discussion or contact with Mr Fayed. Certainly we would want to meet with him as soon as possible."

There had been speculation recently that BAA may have been interested in the Alpha stake. Granada acquired the stake when it bought Forte.

Duty-free buyer: Mohamed Al Fayed takes Granada's stake

Pro-Europe campaign spills on to the streets

Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

The increasingly bitter struggle over the future of the pound reached the streets of the City yesterday. At 6.30am outside Liverpool Street station supporters of the European Movement, a pro-European campaign group, were handing out leaflets making the case for membership of the single currency.

The group has a stock of 8,000 leaflets, titled "The Other Side of the Coin", and an annual grant of £20,000 from the EU with which to promote its cause. As the Labour MP Giles Radice, its chairman, observed ruefully at the official launch, the European Movement is easily outspent by Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party.

The brochure, which will be handed out at the CBI's annual conference this month and sent to financial institutions and banks, tries to tackle the most frequent objections to European Monetary Union.

Mr Radice found himself on the defensive over suggestions that the Labour Party was moving away from its earlier sympathy for the idea that Britain should join the single currency in the first wave.

Robin Cook, the party's foreign affairs spokesman, said last month it would be hard for Britain to join in the first wave in 1999. But Mr Radice said yesterday: "My own view on the position is exactly as it was before."

Conservative MP Quentin Davies, a vice-chairman of the European Movement, warned: "Wait and see is not a cost-free option."

He said if Britain did not join, its interest rates would have to be higher than those in the Euro-zone and the country would become less attractive to foreign investors.

John Stevens, the Tory MEP for Thames Valley, said the European Movement wanted to make a positive case for joining the single currency. "Joining would be the most powerful boost to the City's position there has ever been," he said.

However, the new pamphlet concentrates on countering some of the most common arguments against UK membership. A lot of these were "very ill-founded", Mr Radice said.

The campaign claims that Britain will not lose the power to run an independent government spending and tax policy. Nor will there have to be big subsidies of poor member countries by rich ones.

It argues that the single currency would create jobs rather than increase unemployment because interest rates would be much lower if Britain were part of the Euro block. Mortgage rates would be able to fall too.

It also challenges high estimates of the costs of switching over to the Euro, saying that banks and shops would have to spend large amounts on upgrading their equipment and software anyway. It puts the total transition cost at £2.5bn.

Mr Radice acknowledged that monetary union would lead to closer political integration. But he added: "There is no evidence that the great British public is concerned about sovereignty. What they are interested in is the bread-and-butter issues."

Lord Kingsdown, former Governor of the Bank of England, who was also backing the launch, said: "The idea that any individual country has monetary sovereignty is illusory."

Gehe in £651m bid for Unichem

Magnus Grimond

Gehe of Germany yesterday renewed its assault on Lloyds Chemists with a £651m bid which almost exactly matches the rival offer from UniChem. The 500p a share all-cash bid is being made on almost the same terms as an earlier offer which lapsed when bids from both Gehe were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The move was not unexpected and comes just ahead of the Friday deadline set when the Department of Trade and Industry gave the conditional go-ahead for renewed bidding last month. But the level bid was lower than some analysts had been forecasting and Lloyds' shares slipped 5.5p to 511p.

UniChem chief executive Jeffrey Harris said he saw no reason to raise UniChem's bid in the short term but did not rule out returning with a higher offer. "At least the gloves are off now and we know what we are up against. The best thing [today] is the bounce in the UniChem share price, which clearly shows that our institutional shareholders are behind us."

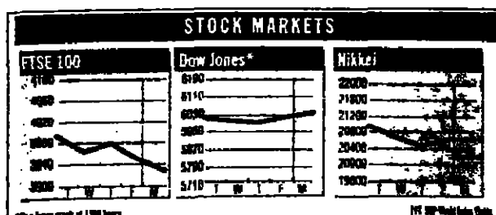
Lloyds' shares remain well clear of both offers, with the UniChem bid valuing them at 501p after a 3.5p rise in its own share price to 255p yesterday, leading some observers to suggest that the German offer would not necessarily clinch a deal. Kevin Scotcher of NatWest Markets said: "This is an opening shot, from what I can gather. It is certainly not a final offer, so we can't assume it is their last offer."

Tony Cooper of Greig Middleton said he was slightly surprised that Gehe had come back at the same level as before. "It has left UniChem with a little bit of a free hand. If they are keen to acquire this...they could come back and take this now."

The Gehe bid was accompanied by renewed claims that the value of Lloyds had been impaired since the previous bid battle. Dieter Kammerer, the Gehe chairman, described the renewed offer as "notably generous, given the deterioration in Lloyds Chemists' performance in the last financial year." He claimed the cash offer provided certainty of value against UniChem terms which consisted largely of shares.

The German group launched a wide-ranging attack on UniChem's claims concerning the takeover. It said the pro forma gearing would rise to more than 350 per cent. It also questioned its rival's assumptions about the potential synergies, saying they were "optimistic".

STOCK MARKETS

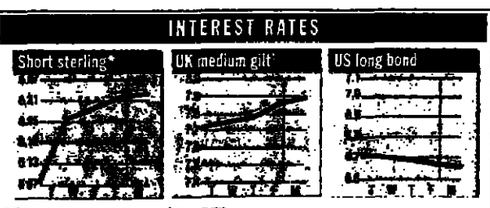


Indices

Index	Close	Day's change	Change(%)	1996 High	1996 Low	Yield(%)
FTSE 100	3928.10	-20.40	-0.5	4073.10	3632.30	3.99
FTSE 250	4419.40	-10.80	-0.2	4568.60	4015.30	3.53
FTSE 350	1962.40	-9.00	-0.5	2022.10	1816.60	3.89
FTSE SmallCap	2164.03	-3.38	-0.2	2244.36	1954.06	3.14
FTSE All-Share	1938.07	-8.42	-0.4	1994.54	1791.95	3.83
New York *	6041.68	+19.75	+0.3	6094.23	5032.94	2.15
Tokyo		closed	-	22666.80	19734.70	0.77†
Hong Kong	12559.40	+30.13	+0.2	12559.40	10204.87	3.30†
Frankfurt	2671.86	-11.39	-0.4	2734.82	2253.36	1.74†

Statistics as of 5 November

INTEREST RATES



Money Market Rates / Bond Yields *

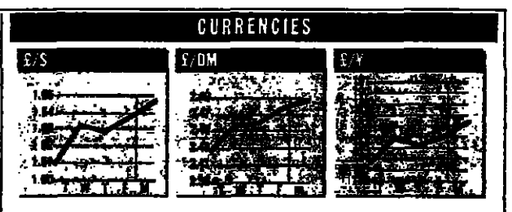
Index	1 Month	1 Year	Medium Bond (%)	Year Ago	Long Bond	(%) Year Ago
UK	6.13	6.69	7.73	7.85	7.84	7.98
US	5.41	5.63	6.35	5.95	6.67	6.28
Japan	0.47	0.50	closed	-	-	-
Germany	3.06	3.25	6.03	6.39	6.84	-

*Benchmark indices

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Change (p)	Change%	Falls	Price (p)	Change (p)	% Change
British Telecom	373	22	6.3	British Biotech	207.5	21.5	9.4
BTG	2482.5	75	3.1	Kwik Save Group	302	17	5.3
Vodafone Group	241.5	5	2.1	British Sky Broad	547	22	3.9

CURRENCIES



Pound

	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
$ (London)	1.6469	+0.93c	1.5775
$ (N York)‡	1.6447	+0.82c	1.5800
DM (London)	2.4920	+0.87pf	2.2332
¥ (London)	187.401	+Y1.392	162.543
£ Index	91.2	+0.3	84.3

Dollar

	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
£ (London)	0.6072	-0.34	0.6339
£ (N York)‡	0.6083	-0.22	0.6329
DM (London)	1.5132	-0.33pf	1.4134
¥ (London)	113.790	+Y0.2	102.875
$ Index	97.0	unch	94.4

OTHER INDICATORS

	Yesterday	Day's chg	Year Ago		Index	Latest	Yr Ago	Next Figs
Oil Brent $	22.28	-0.22	16.48	RPI	153.8	+2.12pc	150.6	14 Nov
Gold $	378.95	+1.00	382.50	GDP	108.9	+2.3pc	105.7	Jan 27
Gold £	230.10	+0.70	242.06	Base Rates	—	6.00pc	6.75	—

هكذا من الأصل

The numbers look worse and worse for Clarke

COMMENT

'The threatened NHS crisis has been averted at the eleventh hour – but does this mean there will be no room at all for tax cuts?'

The pre-election Budget designed to appeal to our virtue rather than our pockets is fast becoming a matter of financial necessity for Kenneth Clarke, rather than one of choice. In the bizarre and secretive manner in which these decisions emerge from the dingy corridors of Whitehall into the light of day, it has become clear that yesterday's Cabinet meeting found extra cash for spending on health and education, the Government's two priority areas. The threatened NHS crisis has been averted at the eleventh hour – but does this mean there will be no room at all for tax cuts?

Kenneth Clarke has been engaged a one-man campaign to persuade both the City and his own party that nobody should be looking for a big tax bonanza this year. If you believe this – and half the City does, while the other half reckons it is simply news management to prepare the ground for a big giveaway – then the health and education spending deal reinforces the message.

For the Budget arithmetic looks pretty unforgiving. The Government's borrowing requirement this financial year, the fifth of the recovery, is likely to be a couple of billion higher than the Treasury's latest forecast of £26.9bn. The massive deficits at hospitals across the country highlight how tough a task the Chancellor set in last year's spending plans. Expenditure control is never easy. In the 12 months before an election, it becomes virtually impossible.

The fact that inflation has been lower than expected this year means that the existing cash limits allow for a bit more growth in real terms than expected. But it will be difficult to recoup the extra £500m-£1bn for health and any extra for education just agreed by the Cabinet through cuts in other departments' spending totals. It would not be plausible for Mr Clarke to announce cuts in the overall spending figure when he stands up on 26th November. Even an unchanged total will strain credibility.

The Chancellor's other priority is to keep the profile of government borrowing on a downward path without the embarrassment of having to postpone a balanced budget until the next millennium. That leaves just two options on the tax front. Mr Clarke is either looking at a very modest reduction of a billion or two, perhaps a penny off the basic rate of income tax. Alternatively he could achieve a bit more with perhaps the abolition of inheritance tax thrown in for good measure by raising corporate taxes. Why leave that option open for Labour's first budget, after all?

All this forgets the rabbit lurking in the bottom of the Chancellor's hat. His current forecasts for tax revenues are extremely cautious, revised down after the notorious shortfall in VAT and corporation tax receipts last year. Close some loopholes, point to the very buoyant economy, and hey presto! Suddenly the circle is squared. Mr Clarke can allow higher spending on hospitals and schools, succeed in producing prudent borrowing forecasts and justify a couple of billion off taxes as well. Magic.

BA may fly under a flag of convenience

This is your captain speaking. British Airways flight 100 to Bombay is about to depart. Those passengers with onward connections should contact our global ticketing headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, those with lost luggage complaints should direct their enquiries to our worldwide baggage centre in Taipei and those requiring hotel reservations will find our central marketing department in Lahore only too willing to help.

In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, you will find that this aircraft is registered in Liberia and all the flight attendants are Greek, unless they are Chinese. We hope you enjoy the flight and thank you for choosing British Airways, unless of course you were unlucky enough to work in the accounts department.

BA's decision to outsource 10 per cent of its accounting operations to the Indian subcontinent, where qualified staff are plentiful and the wages are only a fifth of those back home, will be met with an understandable mix of fear and trepidation among the rest of the workforce.

If this is what becoming a "virtual airline" means, then the sky is truly the limit. If the books can be kept just as easily in Bombay as Brentford then why not outsource every other backroom function. Indeed, why stop there? Engineering and aircraft maintenance could be done just as easily somewhere in the Asia Pacific where the wage rates are low and they don't have the burden of all those social wage costs. Even the stewardesses need not be employed and paid according to British working practices and salary levels since they spend half their time in international airspace.

It may be that the only way BA can achieve its target of £1bn in savings is through such draconian action. It does not stop at accounts clerks. Ground handling staff have already been told they will lose their jobs unless they take pay cuts, the same fate is awaiting regional cabin crew. BA is an exceptional airline. But in its pursuit of cost-cuts it is in danger of inadvertently turning itself into an airline flying under a flag of convenience. The effect would be to devalue the brand and create more problems than it solves.

Schroders could derail the gravy train

Cartel? What cartel? Yesterday's £48m rights issue for More Group was the second time in less than a week that Schroders has successfully tried out its new auction system for sub-underwriting commissions. Until now, the City has operated a fixed commission system that has been eyed with deep suspicion by the Office of Fair Trading, which sees it as a nice little gravy train for merchant banks and institutions.

Schroders has demonstrated that there are savings to be made – though not enormous ones – and it plans to continue fine-tuning the auction method in the light of experience with the first two. Meanwhile, fund managers – the people who benefit most from fixed commissions – are lining up solidly behind the initiative, not out of altruism but because it looks like the best way of persuading the OFT not to refer the whole matter to the Monopolies Commission.

Meanwhile, there is a second, less well publicised but related initiative that could prove equally potent a tool in defence of the underwriting system, and the closely related matter of pre-emption rights, the mechanism that gives shareholders first call on any new issue. One reason rights issues often look expensive as a way of raising capital is that companies invariably maintain or even raise the dividend at the same time, to keep investors sweet.

The discount in a rights issue is equivalent to a free issue of shares, and so the dividend really ought to be cut rather than maintained or raised. Otherwise, the critics have a point when they say rights issues are expensive ways of raising capital. The National Association of Pension Funds and the Association of British Insurers say they are receptive to flexible dividends, as well as lower fees. Now it is up to companies to act on the suggestion.

Economy: Whitbread and M&S promise 5,000 new jobs as tourism surges and manufacturing output rises

Boom conditions back for the high street and industry

Tom Stevenson and Diane Coyle

Further evidence emerged yesterday of a return to boom conditions on the high street and in industry as two of Britain's largest retailers promised to create 5,000 new jobs this year, tourism surged and manufacturing data showed the first quarterly rise in output for a year.

The feelgood factor is back with a vengeance, according to Peter Jarvis, chief executive of Whitbread, the brewing and leisure group that yesterday reported a 14 per cent rise in first-half profits. With the benefits of tax cuts and better job security, he said he expected the good times to roll at the group's restaurants, pubs and hotels for at least the next two years. Whitbread plans to create 3,000 new jobs this year.

Marks & Spencer added to the good cheer with the announcement that it would be adding 2,000 to its payroll. Sales in its UK stores in the half year to September were 8 per cent higher and Sir Richard Greenbury, executive chairman, said: "Consumer confidence seems to be returning so we are working with suppliers to drive sales harder."

Industry is starting to share in the economic recovery, new figures suggested yesterday. Manufacturing output rose 0.7 per cent in the the three months to September, its first quarterly rise for a year, virtually regaining its 1995 peak.

The favourable output figures delighted the Government. Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said: "The gloomy days are gone and the sun is shining on British industry."

Labour welcomed the news too, but Margaret Beckett, shadow trade secretary, pointed out that manufacturing output had climbed by only 2.1 per cent since 1990. There were also concerns that the strength of the pound, which rose briefly above DM2.50 yesterday, could harm exports.

Higher estimates of production in July and August, along with early results showing that manufacturers built up stock levels in the third quarter, are likely to lead to an upward revision in gross domestic product. The preliminary estimate of a 0.8 per cent increase in GDP was already high enough to have triggered last week's quarter point increase in base rates.

Many City economists believe the strength of the economy's recovery will make another increase in interest rates necessary if the Government is to meet its inflation target. "Above-trend growth in GDP should be maintained. This will keep upward pressure on interest rates," said David Walton at Goldman Sachs.

Mr Jarvis said part of Whitbread's success was due to stronger markets but he attrib[illegible] serves like the local pub. He quoted a recent study of Britain's leisure markets that predicted: "The future is female: women's stamp on society will become more marked as their participation in work continues to grow and they begin to outperform males at all levels of educational attainmem."

Whitbread dominates the casual eating out market in Britain, owning the top three non-burger chains, Beefeater, Pizza Hut and Brewers Fayre. It has also targeted the two fastest growing age groups, people aged between 35 and 44 and between 55 and 64, who have traditionally been light users of pubs but have been increasingly wooed by more astute marketing of pubs and restaurants.

Mr Jarvis also highlighted the rapid rise in tourist numbers visiting Britain in recent years, which has benefited its budget Travel Inn chain and the four-star Marriott hotels it acquired last year. More than 26 million visitors spent an average of £550 each on UK holidays in 1995 and the value of the market is forecast to soar by the year 2000.

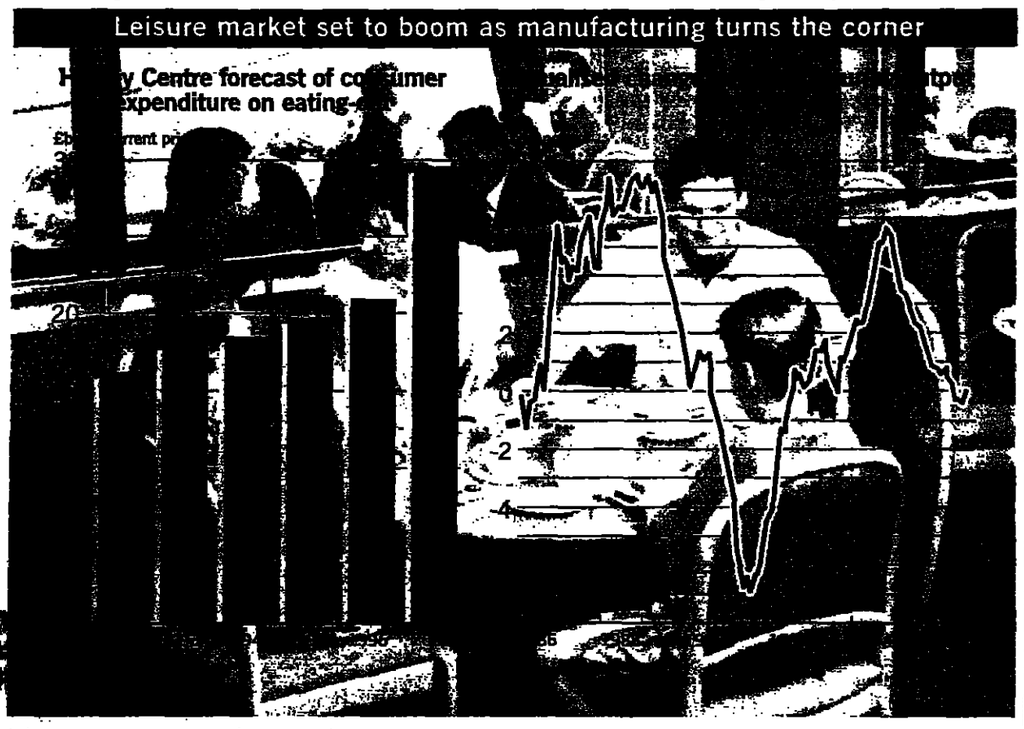
Mr Jarvis said Whitbread's improved performance reflected better trading conditions but also the company's success in taking market share from its competitors and the benefits of a heavy capital expenditure and acquisitions programme in recent years.

The gains in manufacturing output in the third quarter were spread across several industries, especially engineering.

Production by the engineering industry rose 1.3 per cent during July-September to reach an all-time high, driven by record output of electrical equipment including computers. Computer production has been growing at a consistently strong annual rate of 2-4 per cent.

There was a 1.7 per cent increase in textiles, leather and clothing, and smaller increases in output of basic metals and "other" manufacturing.

Within manufacturing, output of the food, drink and tobacco, nuclear and chemicals industries declined compared with the second quarter.



Northern says 630p a share is too low

Michael Harrison

A slanging match broke out last night between Northern Electric and CE Electric, the US consortium which has tabled a hostile £759m offer, over the value of the last takeover bid for the company.

CE Electric, jointly owned by the Nebraskan-based CalEnergy and American construction group Kiewit, said its 630p-a-share offer compared with an effective offer of 633p in 1995 from Trafalgar House.

However, Northern hit back, saying the true value of Trafalgar's final offer had been 732p and urged shareholders to reject the bid.

In the offer document, posted yesterday, CE Electric urges Northern shareholders to accept the bid, warning that Northern faces an uncertain future from 1998 and the possibility of an £81m windfall tax demand.

Its chairman, David Sokol, also says in a letter to Northern shareholders that the payouts Northern produced to fend off Trafalgar had significantly reduced its ability to pay additional special dividends in the face of a tougher regulatory environment.

But David Morris, the Northern chairman, responded by saying that CE Electric was trying to buy the business on the cheap. He said that accepting the offer would deprive shareholders of a second special dividend of 56.5p payable next February and the interim dividend, which analysts reckon will be about 13p.

He said: "Northern Electric will make a series of important announcements which will build a compelling picture of the value which has been created since we were last subject to a hostile offer as well as the value of the business going forward."

CE Electric's valuation of 633p is based on taking Trafalgar's original offer of £11 a share and then deducting the gross value of the distributions Northern has made to shareholders and then adjusting for its subsequent 23-for-26 share consolidation.

Northern says that the benefit of a tax credit on special dividend distributions does not result in a corresponding fall in the value of the company paying those dividends because it is the taxpayer, not the distributing company, that bears the cost of the tax credit.

On that basis, the implied bid price, if CE Electric were to match what Trafalgar offered, would be 99p higher.

Northern held talks with CE Electric prior to the launch of the bid and said an offer had been discussed at around a price of 700p a share. CE Electric denies this.

In Brief

• **The Cable Communications Association** yesterday rejected the new rate card proposed by BSkyB, the pay-TV giant, and called on the Office of Fair Trading to set a "fair and reasonable framework" for the supply of Sky's channels to the cable industry. Confirming a report in yesterday's *Independent*, the industry unanimously agreed to support the campaign to win concessions from BSkyB. Meanwhile, it emerged last night that the CCA will no longer handle marketing on behalf of the cable industry, in what was seen as an admission that a £12m joint promotional campaign starring Dawn French earlier this year had been a failure. The CCA will be engaged strictly in political lobbying and regulatory technical issues on behalf of the industry.

• **The Greenbury code on executive pay** is beginning to bite, according to the annual survey of directors' salaries and benefits by actuaries Bacon & Woodrow. It shows that pay rises among directors are running at 7.6 per cent. However, chief executives' increases are lower, at an average of 6.6 per cent. The average main board director received a basic salary of £117,829, while a chief executive received £204,133.

• **Estate agents are warning the Chancellor** to leave the housing market alone in the Budget if the rally is to continue. More than half of all estate agents feel the recovery is fragile and just over half fear the Chancellor will reduce the rate at which tax relief is given on mortgage interest from 15 per cent to 10 per cent or less in the next tax year. A similar proportion thinks arise in base rates would have an adverse effect on the market.

• **Nintendo, the Japanese computer games company,** said profits fell by more than half in the first six months as sales of new games and game machines failed to make up for declining sales of older models. The company sold 1.16 million Nintendo 64 game machines in Japan by the end of September, compared with a target of 1.8 million units. Pre-tax profits fell 53 per cent to 30.01 billion yen ($267.9m) in the six months to 30 September.

• **The vice premier of China, Li Lanqing,** headed a delegation to the London Stock Exchange yesterday to learn more about the opportunities for Chinese companies to raise capital in London. The visit follows the recent signing of a memorandum of understanding between the UK and Chinese regulatory authorities, paving the way for Chinese companies to list in London.

• **Two British mobile phone companies,** Orange and One-2-One, have been challenged by Brussels to justify "loyalty" locks which tie customers to one operator service. EU officials said both companies had failed to give satisfactory replies to warning letters sent out by the EU Commission three months ago. One-2-One responded by saying that three months ago it responded to concerns by visiting the commission. It expected guidelines for the use of "loyalty" locks to be published by the commission and had not received any communication from the commission for three months.

• **Firstbus, one of Britain's largest bus companies,** has placed an £80m order for 914 new buses. A total of 584 vehicles, worth £50m, have been ordered for the year ending 31 March 1998, with an initial order of 330 vehicles worth £30m for 1998-99.

Anglian Water pledges to fight windfall tax

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

Anglian Water yesterday intensified the attack by the privatised utilities on Labour's proposed windfall tax, pledging to mount a legal challenge to the policy should the party win power in the next election.

Alan Smith, Anglian's group managing director, described the tax as iniquitous and claimed the privatised water firms did not have enough surplus cash to fund it. Anglian is believed to have instructed lawyers to examine Labour's outline proposals in more detail, though Mr Smith admitted many aspects of the policy were still unknown.

"We are doing our homework in trying to understand what the legal position might be. If it is not legal in our view, or if we believe it's in breach of European law, then we would certainly consider going to court," he said.

The comments are the toughest so far by one of the privatised water companies and are markedly stronger than recent opposition to the tax voiced by Thames Water. However, John Devaney, executive chairman of Eastern Group, the regional electricity company owned by Hanson, has previously argued that any responsible board of directors would be obliged to challenge the tax's legality.

Mr Smith made the comments as Anglian unveiled a modest 5.5 per cent rise in half yearly profits to £132.7m and said it would invest a further £34m in improving water distribution.

Alan Smith: 'We would consider going to court'

The company raised its interim dividend payout, all of which comes from profits in the core regulated water and sewerage businesses, by 14.6 per cent to 10.2p. However this was lower than the 22 per cent dividend increase announced by Thames Water last month.

Anglian also raised the possibility of further job losses in addition to almost 900 so far.

Losses at the company's unregulated contracting and engineering businesses rose from £4.5m to £6.5m between April and September because of extra cash spent on marketing activities.

Anglian has already said it intends to raise its marketing spending to £6m a year, but yesterday admitted these businesses would not make profits until the next century.

The disclosure came as a surprise to City water analysts. Shares in Anglian fell 11.5p to 547.5p.

BP denies human rights abuses

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

BP has urged authorities in Colombia to investigate allegations that the oil giant has collaborated with human rights abuses committed by the country's armed forces.

John Browne, the chief executive, insisted yesterday that complaints to the Colombian prosecutor's office were "absolutely groundless".

BP pays $8.6m in taxes and lodgings for the military guards, who are intended to prevent attacks on its oil installations from left-wing guerrilla groups.

However, in a sign that opportunities for BP in the country were deteriorating, Mr Browne said prospects for future investments "don't look very good".

The news emerged as BP strengthened its position at the top of the oil industry earnings league as it revealed record profits in the third quarter of the year and predicted that the high level of oil prices which have helped to boost revenues would continue well into next year.

Profits on a replacement cost basis before exceptional items surged by 22 per cent in the three months to the end of September to £650m. Taking the first nine months of the year as a whole, BP's earnings also hit record levels, increasing by 28 per cent to £1.931bn.

Like other oil giants, BP's earnings were boosted by the rise in oil prices, which averaged $20.20 a barrel, $2.30 higher than a year ago. Production volumes grew by 6 per cent while underlying profits from upstream activities jumped by a third to £761m.

However, Mr Browne said the benefit from rising oil prices had been more than outweighed by sharply lower profit margins in chemicals operations.

BP increased its dividend by 25 per cent to 5p in the third quarter, the same level as the previous three-month period. Shares in the group edged up by 2p to close at 640.5p.

NatWest's Hong Kong joint venture called off

Peter Rodgers
Financial Editor

A joint venture between NatWest Markets and Peter Woo Kwong-Ching, a leading Hong Kong businessman, has ended in controversy after only a year of operation.

NatWest Markets said yesterday that it is to buy full control of Wheelock NatWest, which is 50 per cent owned by Wheelock, the conglomerate Mr Woo controls.

The failure of the arrangement with Mr Woo after such a brief period could be embarrassing for NatWest's ambitions in Hong Kong, because he is one of the leading candidates for the post of chief executive following the return to Chinese sovereignty next year.

NatWest blamed the decision on the increasing risk of operating a partly owned trading business in the Far East and said it had concluded it was best for it to become a wholly owned subsidiary of the bank. The 50:50 joint venture was announced in 1994 and began operating in the second half of last year.

Hong Kong sources said the announcement ended a short and bumpy association between NatWest and Wheelock.

NatWest denied a report that Mr Woo had angrily telephoned Lord Alexander, chairman of NatWest, to complain about the way the joint venture had been operated.

But it refused to comment on claims that it had upset Mr Woo by not telling him of plans to buy Gartmore, the fund management group, which owns a competing Hong Kong business. It confirmed that the acquisition of Gartmore had led to the closure of the fund management business of Wheelock NatWest at the end of last week.

NatWest Markets said recent trading scandals around the world had made it more difficult for joint ventures to operate under British rules in Asian markets with the highest growth, such as equity and derivatives trading.

"We did recognise at a very early stage that there was a certain amount of risk we could accommodate within the joint venture vehicle," John Howland-Jackson, NatWest Markets' newly appointed chairman for Asia Pacific, said in Hong Kong.

"We were perhaps not bargaining on a series of events around the world in a variety of traded markets that would cause such scrutiny of trading businesses," he said.

M&S is forced to look overseas

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Marks & Spencer remains the supertanker of UK retailing, but its overseas expansion programme is taking the stores group into uncharted waters. Led by its irascible captain, Sir Richard Greenbury, the group will this year double capital expenditure on its foreign stores to around £120m or roughly a third of the total budgeted spend of £350m. Around half the increase in space planned for 1996-97 will be overseas, which represents a step change on previous years.

In the past, Marks has been content to allow its relatively small North American and European operations to chug along while the UK made all the running. But half-year figures yesterday gave a clue to the imperative which is driving the group overseas. Pre-tax profits 12 per cent higher at £430m in the six months to September disappointed the market, sending the shares down 26p to 483p.

Sales in the UK climbed 8.4 per cent to £2.84bn in the half, a healthy performance even after stripping out the effects of new stores, which would probably reduce that figure by 1 percentage point or so.

Yet despite the top line growth, operating margins refused to budge above an admittedly highly respectable 12 per cent. Indeed costs rose around 9 per cent in the period, wrongfooting some analysts.

Marks took on an extra 1,500 staff last year and is in the throes of adding another 2,250, increasing UK staff numbers by around 6 per cent this year. That looks generous against the 3 per cent rise in store space expected and it is clear that, despite signs of a revival in consumer spending in Britain, Marks at least thinks it will have to work harder in terms of service to win and maintain the loyalty of shoppers.

Such prudence is probably justified, given recent sales trends. Clothing, footwear and gifts, still the backbone of the business, turned in a sound 8.8 per cent rise to £1.51bn in the six months. Home furnishings, up 27 per cent off a low base to £104m, is tanking ahead on the back of the revived housing market.

But although Marks has retained its market share, the food sector, up 6.6 per cent, remains under pressure. Volume growth decelerated between the first and second quarters and prices are also not rising as fast as they were.

These are probably quibbles now, but Marks is right to be thinking of the future. Sir Richard's boast that there are 80 places in the UK where a new store or extension could double sales just demonstrates the constraints on further expansion in the home market. Yet the latest £12.9m profits from overseas businesses, hailed as their first meaningful contribution, have taken years to achieve and are expensive. Opening costs for four new stores in Europe were £6.8m, or 61 per cent of first-half turnover.

Profits of around £1.1bn this year would put the shares on a forward multiple of 18. High enough for now.

Whitbread shows the way

These were good figures from Whitbread, but so they should have been against an increasingly benign consumer background. They looked doubly good because there were improvements across the board and no banana skins.

At the top end of expectations, the results, showing a rise in underlying pretax profits from £155.7m to £177.5m, helped the shares rise 5.5p yesterday to close at 746p, within striking distance of their all time high and more than twice the level they traded at four years ago.

After a 15 per cent rise in earnings per share to 27.1p, the interim dividend rose 9 per cent to 6.25p.

Whitbread is proving itself to be a really intelligent company, way ahead of its peers in the way it has thought strategically about where the British leisure pound is going and how it can grab an increasingly fatter slice of that growing market. Perhaps it is a reflection of his time at Unilever dreaming up Captain Birdseye, but Peter Jarvis appears to have a better grasp than most of the significance of demographic shifts and changes in the public's aspirations.

Whenever the company has bought itself into new niches of the leisure market, whether fitness through David Lloyd or semi-sophisticated urban eating out through Pelican, it has been able to defend the move (and its cost) with empirical evidence of the market forces that will make the deal work. Whitbread may occasionally be guilty of paying over the odds to secure a position, but it has always been right to take it.

As a result, Whitbread has become Britain's dominant retailer in drinks, eating out and accommodation, with an unrivalled portfolio of brands from Marriott and Travel Inn to Beefeater and Brewers Fayre, from Thresher and Pizza Hut to Cafe Rouge and Costa Coffee. Brewing now accounts for a small proportion of profits, but even in that traditional core Whitbread has sensibly focused on the growing take-home market, where its strong Stella Artois and Heineken brands are increasingly successful.

On the basis of forecast profits of £320m to next February and £360m the following year, the shares trade on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 15 falling to 13.5. That is not demanding for a company so well placed to benefit from rising leisure spending. A good long-term hold.

Majestic start for wine chain

Majestic Wine, the UK's largest wine warehouse chain, priced its forthcoming AIM flotation at 160p yesterday, putting a value of £20.4m on the enlarged group. First indications are that the issue has been about three times subscribed, which should augur well for first dealings next Monday.

Majestic operates 61 specialist wine warehouses selling wine by the case to an affluent, knowledgeable clientele. All its outlets are relatively large, with their own car parking, and the chain attempts to differentiate itself from the supermarkets on the one hand and off-licences on the other with a wide range, wine tasting every day and informed staff who help customers make a selection rather than just take their money.

The intention is to use the £4.4m proceeds of the placing to roll out a further eight stores a year to expand the chain from its heavy bias on London and the South-east.

The financial record is impressive, with operating profit before one-off distortions rising smartly from £449,000 in the year to March 1994 to £812,000 in 1995 and £1.2m in the year to last April. During that time the portfolio has grown from 44 warehouses to 61.

One of the problems in valuing Majestic is that there are no comparable companies on the market. Most of the off-licence chains, such as Thresher and Victoria Wine, are part of larger leisure groups (Whitbread and Allied Domecq), and much of the wine trade is now conducted through supermarkets, with the rest through private independent concerns.

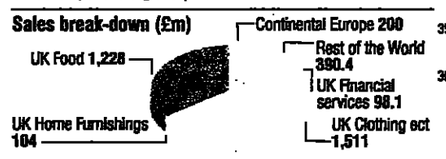
On the basis of forecasts from Majestic's nominated broker, Williams de Broe, the shares are being placed on a multiple of 17 or 18 times fully diluted earnings per share. That seems fairly ambitious, given the heavyweight opposition Majestic is up against, but the company appears to occupy a niche and a continuation of recent growth will soon bring that rating lower.

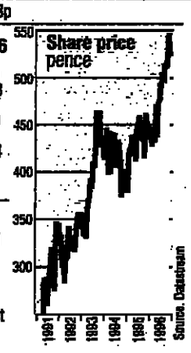
MARKS & SPENCER : AT A GLANCE

Market value: £13.6bn, share price 483p

Trading record	1994	1995	1996	1995	1996
	Full year			Half year	
Turnover (£bn)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.25	3.53
Pre-tax profits (£m)	852	924	966	385	430
Earnings per share (pence)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	9.3	10.4
Dividends per share (pence)	9.2	10.3	11.4	3.0	3.3

Sales break-down (£m)





Biggest bankrupt lands in hot water yet again

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

Here's a blast from the past. **William "Willie" Stern**, once Britain's biggest bankrupt, and his son, Mark Stern, are facing proceedings to disqualify them as directors of public companies by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr Stern won fame in 1974 when his Wilstar property group collapsed and he was made personally bankrupt for £118m, a UK record. That record passed to Rajendra Sethia in 1979, who went down for £140m. Then Kevin Maxwell took up the baton with his £406.5m bankruptcy in 1992.

The DTI launched proceedings against Willie and Mark Stern on 24 October this year in relation to Westminster Property Management and other companies. The Inland Revenue issued a winding up order against Westminster on 26 October 1994, and the DTI's disqualification proceedings will begin in court on 13 January.

A DTI spokesman said that "generally, disqualification proceedings are brought because a director is thought to be unfit to run a public company".

The dozy world of accountancy was electrified yesterday as a renegade professor claimed the head of one of the profession's leading figures.

Jim Waits, vice-president of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants (Acca), tendered his resignation because of comments he made last week about Prem Sikka, a professor of accountancy at Essex University.

Mr Waits said in his resignation note that the Acca was right to expect its officers to uphold the high standing of the association and "unintentionally, comments which I made last Thursday did not fulfil that obligation".

The events refer to last week's EGM called by Professor Sikka to discuss greater democracy at Acca. All went off quietly enough – all reform motions were heavily defeated as usual.

Then up stood Mr Waits, in line to be Acca president in about 15 months' time. Mr Waits laid into Professor Sikka, accusing him of being

William Stern: DTI wants to disqualify him and his son

anti-Semitic for seeking EGMs on a Saturday, sexist and racist, and suggesting he form his own organisation, called something like the Worldwide Association of Non-Chartered Certified Accountants.

Happily, Professor Sikka is in a conciliatory mood about what he calls "bar-room type language", said he forgives Mr Waits and urges that "everybody get back to the issues".

The professor adds that he was disappointed by the behaviour of an officer of a professional body and hoped Mr Waits would resign from the council, too. "If I ever needed to make my point about the need to get rid of leadership based on buggins' turn, this is it," he said.

Sir Richard Greenbury, executive chairman of the mighty Marks & Spencer, insisted his staff should be more polite to customers yesterday – just as he slapped down our own correspondent for the impertinence of asking more than one supplementary question.

Sir Richard, when asked by a German journalist yesterday what expansion plans he had for Germany, where Marks's has just opened its first store, said; "Our expansion plans are dictated by the pace at which we can acquire sites. If you have any knowledge or any inside tracks on where we can obtain sites in any one of 16 cities, please telephone Keith Oates [deputy chairman]."

M&S should be helped by liberalisation of German shopping hours, which until recently have been short. Now Teutonic shops can stay open until 4pm on Saturdays and 8pm on weekdays.

Richard Northcott has won the Alternative Best Use of AIM award from the *AIM Newsletter* for making the most money out of the market. Andrew Griffiths, editor of *AIM Newsletter*, said: "He has shepherded no fewer than three businesses to AIM this year."

Mr Northcott's best-known winner is Pet City, which made him £26.5m recently.

AIM Newsletter quotes a friend of Mr Northcott's as saying: "He will be delighted. He likes people to know how well he is doing."

John Willcock

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Anglian Water (I)	413m (372m)	132.7m (125.8m)	46.7p (41.2p)	10.2p (8.9p)
Bellway (F)	305.6m (267m)	32.2m (34.0m)	20.0p (21.4p)	5.65p (5.25p)
British Airways (I)	4.39bn (4.03bn)	470m (430m)	39.7p (33.8p)	4.25p (-)
British Petroleum (N)	– (–)	*2.07bn (*1.28bn)	37.0p (23.2p)	5.0p (4.0p)
Creston Land (F)	8.06m (7.58m)	1.5m (-6.84m)	2.0p (-8.2p)	nil
Hartlepool Water (I)	3.06m (2.99m)	980,000 (940,000)	9.8p (9.7p)	2.8p (2.6p)
MAM (I)	162.5m (128.5m)	81.8m (63.6m)	30.9p (24.2p)	10.0p (6.0p)
Marks & Spencer (I)	3.53bn (3.23bn)	430.1m (387.1m)	10.4p (9.3p)	3.3p (3.0p)
Powerscreen Int (I)	151.5m (121.0m)	20.45m (17.08m)	17.3p (14.5p)	2.8p (2.5p)
Stratagem Group (F)	131.1m (90.72m)	-3.03m (4.05m)	-8.4p (19.8p)	2p (4p)
Whitbread (I)	1.50bn (1.33bn)	177.5m (155.7m)	27.10p (23.66p)	6.25p (5.75p)

(F) - Final (I) - Interim (N) - Nine months *Historical cost net income

Cheese and spreads push up Dairy Crest profits

Tom Stevenson
City Editor

Buoyant trading from its cheeses, spreads and fresh dairy products arm helped newly floated Dairy Crest make up for declining sales and profits from its ingredients and doorstep milk delivery operations in the six months to September.

Dairy Crest, which came to the market in August, announced overall pre-tax profits of £16.5m, compared with £15.4m in the comparable half-year period. Earnings per share rose from 9.3p to 10.5p and there was a maiden interim dividend of 3.26p.

The group figures disguised sharply different performances from the two divisions, however. Consumer foods enjoyed a surge in sales from £178.3m to £218.3m from which profits of £12.9m were struck, a 42 per cent increase on the £9.1m recorded in 1995. Food services suffered from an 8 per cent decline in sales to £163.3m and operating profits were £1.1m lower at £6.4m.

Consumer foods, increasingly Dairy Crest's strategic focus, benefited from a trend towards mature and farmhouse cheddar cheese, which helped expand the UK retail market by 15 per cent to an annual value of £470m. The recent acquisition of Mendip helped the division, but even without it profits were 25 per cent higher. The operating margin in consumer foods widened from 5.1 per cent to 5.9 per cent.

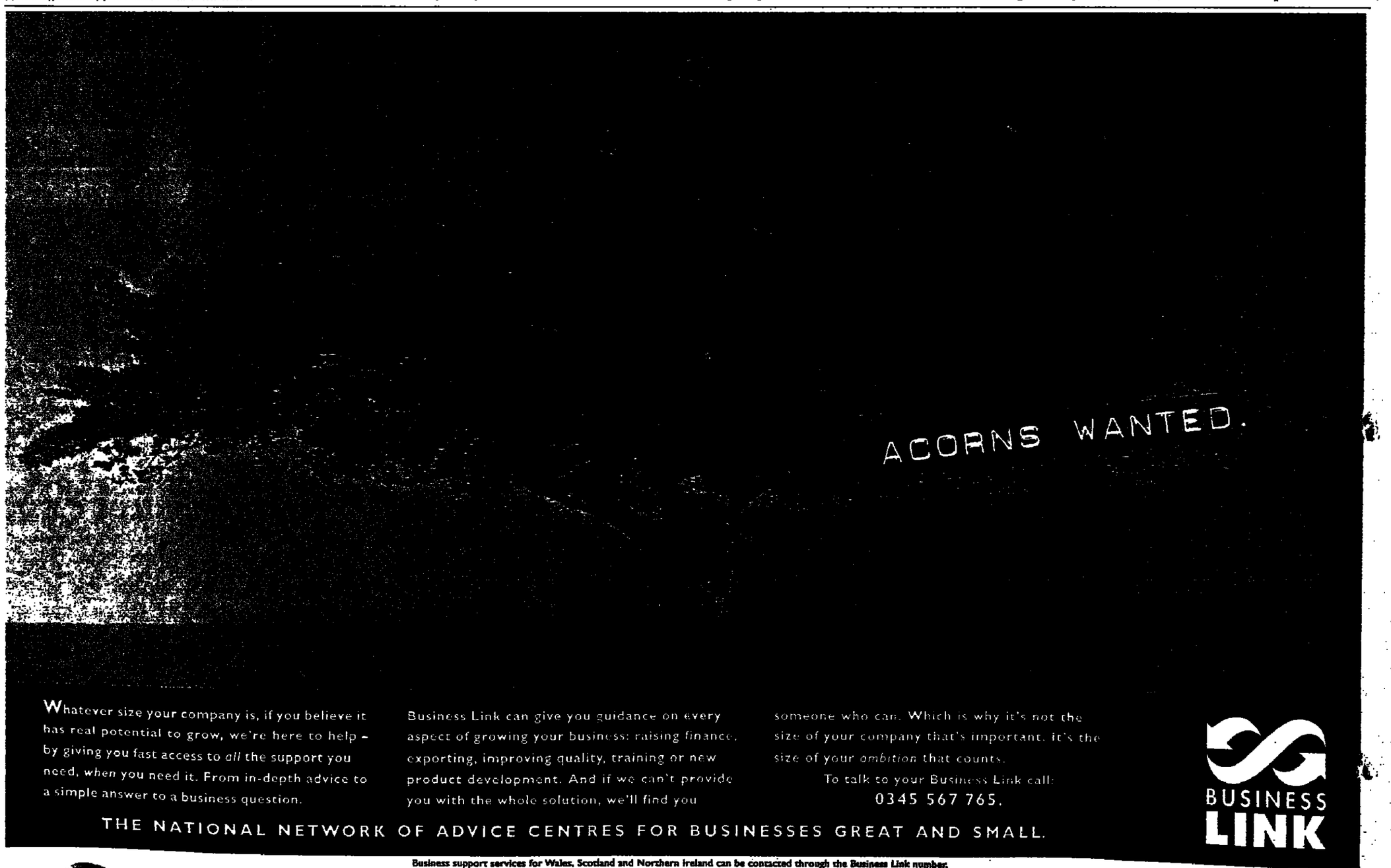
In Food Services, the continuing decline of doorstep deliveries of milk was exacerbated by a reversal of last year's strong market prices for commodity ingredients sold to food manufacturers. Conditions in the division are expected to be no better in the second half, taking the shine off an expected continuation of the improvement on the consumer side.

Despite the problems facing Food Services during the half, cash flow remained strong with an inflow from operations of £20.2m. That had contributed to a reduction in debts taken on as part of a capital reconstruction ahead of the flotation. Gearing at the half-year stage was 16 per cent.

Dairy Crest's shares, which were placed at a controversially low price of 155p a share, leapt in first dealings to more than 190p but have done little since.

Even though farmers were given 70 per cent of the shares in Dairy Crest, formerly the processing arm of the Milk Marketing Board, the sharp rise in early dealings convinced many that institutions should have paid more for their stake.

Yesterday they closed 4.5p lower at 199p.



Business support services for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland can be contacted through the Business Link number.

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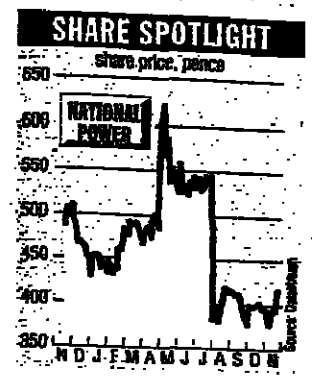
مكررا من الاصل

DATA BANK

FTSE 100
3921.1 -7.0
FTSE 250
4405.2 -13.2
FTSE 350
1958.4 -4.0
SEAQ VOLUME
781.9m shares,
38,551 bargains
Gilts Index
N/A

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence



Strong surge by generators brightens up dull trading

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

It was the turn of the gencos to brighten a dull stock market. National Power and PowerGen surged ahead, basking in an array of analytical approval. And to add to the activity, there was, just for good measure, a hint of takeover action.

Morgan Stanley, the US investment house, was the first to descend on the generators. Then last week UBS was wrong-footed when word leaked it was preparing a favourable circular and the investment house felt obliged to rush out its comments ahead of schedule. Goldman Sachs has also joined the applause, producing its own buy note.

So the generators, for long neglected and in urgent need of a little friendly support, happily responded. National Power, the best performing blue chip, surged 16p to 417.5p; PowerGen rose 13.5p to 534p.

Both stocks offer strong yield support, an ideal requirement in what is looking an increasingly uncertain market. National Power offers a 7.1 per cent return; PowerGen is on 5 per cent.

Adding a little strength to what, in investment terms, are a couple of dull shares are suggestions one of the oil giants could strike.

Shell, or perhaps **British Petroleum**, are seen as possible predators and if a strike is planned it would, in view of the political situation, be wise not to delay too long.

The rest of the market drifted aimlessly with Footsie ending 7 points lower at 3,921.1 as once again investors held off, ahead of the US presidential election result. Talk of higher interest rates, another rampant display by sterling and disappointing Marks & Spencer figures added to the restraint. Even a bright Government stocks market, with gains of up to three quarters of a point, and a strong New York opening failed to offer any comfort to equities.

The growing confusion over the Crest computerised settlements system was said to be an unsettling influence.

A more cautious equity stance – from overweight to neutral – by Merrill Lynch also contributed to the lacklustre display.

British Airways was one of the few to ignore the market slipstream, climbing 18.5p to 568p as US buyers moved in after the quarterly results. Growing hopes the link with American Airlines will get Whitehall approval and BA's near certain success in winning control of the French Air Liberte operation were other decisive influences.

Vodafone was again at the call of takeover speculators following BT's £13bn spectacular for MCI, the US group. Its shares, with SBC Warburg saying buy, put on 4.5p to 246p; BT lost 3p to 370p. **Cable & Wireless** fell 4p to 379.5p following results from its Hong Kong Telecom off-shoot.

M&S ended 26p lower at 483p and **Whitbread's** figures, although encouraging its rivals, failed to offer any stimulant to its own shares, off 4p at 736.5p. **Allied Domecq**, results next week, rose 7p to 481.5p and **Scottish & Newcastle** 5.5p to 648.5p.

Dixons improved 5p to 549p as NatWest Securities upgraded its profit forecast by £15m to £195m and **English China Clays** rose 6.5p to 192.5p on ABN Amro Hoare Govett support.

Johnson Matthey, the metals group, fell 19p to 573.5p after UBS placed 3.5 million shares at 575p. Large lines in **Zeneca**, down 16.5p to 1,627.5p, and **Lloyds TSB**, 3.5p to 383p, were said to hover.

In busy trading, **BSkyB** firmed to 548.5p with Lehman Brothers making cautious noises.

The US securities house puts a 481p valuation on the shares. News Corporation completed its preference issue based on BSkyB shares.

British Biotech, at one time down 15p, ended 5p lower at 202.5p after rumours of a positive meeting with fund managers.

Alpha Airports edged 1.5p higher to 105.5p as the long-suspected sale of Granada's 25 per cent interest duly occurred with Harrods chief Mohamed Al Fayed paying 125p a share for the stake. He has no plans to bid for at least six months. There are suggestions BAA, the airports group, could join Mr Al Fayed in developing duty-free operations through Alpha.

Fairway, a printing group, fell 28.5p to 81.5p on a profit warning and a trading update failed to inspire **First Leisure Corporation**, which was off 9p to 360.5p.

The resumption of hostilities over **Lloyds Chemists** left the shares 5.5p lower at 511p.

Michael Page, the recruitment group, held at 422.5p with Merrill Lynch looking for an £11m profit increase to £28.7m this year. The investment house sees £33.4m next year.

TAKING STOCK

❑ **Shares of Burn Stewart, the Scotch whisky group, bump along around their low at 69.5p. They were floated at 140p five years ago. There is vague talk of takeover action, although the depressed state of the spirits market could deter predators. Britannic Assurance and Dutch group Erven Lucas Bols each have around 10 per cent.**

❑ **Photobition, supplying services for exhibitions, should lift profits £1.4m to £4.3m this year and hit £5.8m next, believes stockbroker Teather & Greenwood. The shares are 339.5p.**

❑ **Investors in computer group Xavier must have dreamt of riches. The shares surged 966 per cent to 117.5p, according to the market screen. "A technical mistake," said chairman Allan Harle. The price was stable at 11p.**

Share Price Data as at 4/11/96

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.
Other details: xr Ex rights x Ex-dividend xa Ex all u Unlisted Securities Market s Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Nil Paid Shares ‡ AIM Stock Source: FT Information

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Alcoholic Beverages

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	Allied Domecq	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Bulmer (HP)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Burn Stewart	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Glenmorangie	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Grand Met	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Guinness	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Highland D	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Ken	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Matthew Clk	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Merrydown	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Seagrams	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Banks, Merchant

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Banks, Retail

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Breweries, Pubs & Rest

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Building/Construction

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Building Materials

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Chemicals

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Distributors

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Diversified Industrials

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Electricity

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Electronics

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Engineering

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Engineering Vehicles

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Extractive Industries

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Food Manufacturers

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Gas Distribution

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Health Care

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Household Goods

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Insurance

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Internationals

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Investment Companies

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Investment Trusts

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Leisure & Hotels

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Life Assurance

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Media

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Oil Exploration

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Oil, Integrated

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	BP	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Burmah Cast	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Exxon	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Mobil Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Norsk Hydro	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Occidental	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Shell	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Other Financial

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Pharmaceuticals

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Printing & Paper

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Property

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Retailers, Food

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Retailers, General

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Support Services

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Telecommunications

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	BT	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Cable & Wls	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Hk Telecom	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	NYNEX	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Orange	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Securicor	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Telewest	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Vodafone	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Textiles & Apparel

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Transport

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Water

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	Anglian	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Government Securities

Index-linked

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Red Yld	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Undated

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Red Yld	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	Cons 4%	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	War Ln 3½%	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Conv 3½%	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Shorts

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Red Yld	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Mediums

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Red Yld	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Longs

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price	Chg	Red Yld	Index Code
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

sport

RUGBY UNION: England have a new captain who leads by example. **Chris Hewett** reports

Softy who conceals a hard centre

They call him "Blouse" in the Bath dressing-room, a thoroughly disrespectful reference to the fact that Phil de Glanville is far too pretty, and gets injured far too often for his own good. Things are about to change, though, for it will take a brave player, certainly one with limited international ambitions, to wield that nickname now.

Not that England's new rugby captain is short of a sense of humour, far from it. But engagingly approachable and popular as he may be, De Glanville is no one's idea of a soft touch. Indeed, Jack Rowell has probably chosen the toughest character of the lot to lead his charges through the minefield of the immediate post-Will Carling era.

Listen to John Hall, De Glanville's forerunner as Bath captain and now his team manager. "People ask if we still have the hard edge in our side, the old mean streak. I tell them to watch Phil. He does a fantastic job in terms of motivation and leadership and I speak as someone who has played under some of the most strong-minded people imaginable."

But De Glanville has never needed others to fight his corner for him. Unlike Carling, who's now notorious "old farts" jibe at members of the Rugby Football Union was less remarkable in terms of content than in the fact that it was voiced by so guarded a character, the new man has pungent views on all things rugby and is quite prepared to express them.

One of the players' representatives during the original falling-out between the leading clubs and the Rugby Football Union last spring, he has been a trenchant critic of the governing body's shambolic efforts to ease the transition to professionalism. He also stands up to be counted on the issue of violence; when half a dozen All Black boots ripped into his face during a brutal New Zealand tour match with the South-West Division at Redruth in 1993, he was not frightened to point the finger. Neither was he frightened to renew acquaintances with the self-same pack of forwards less than a month later.

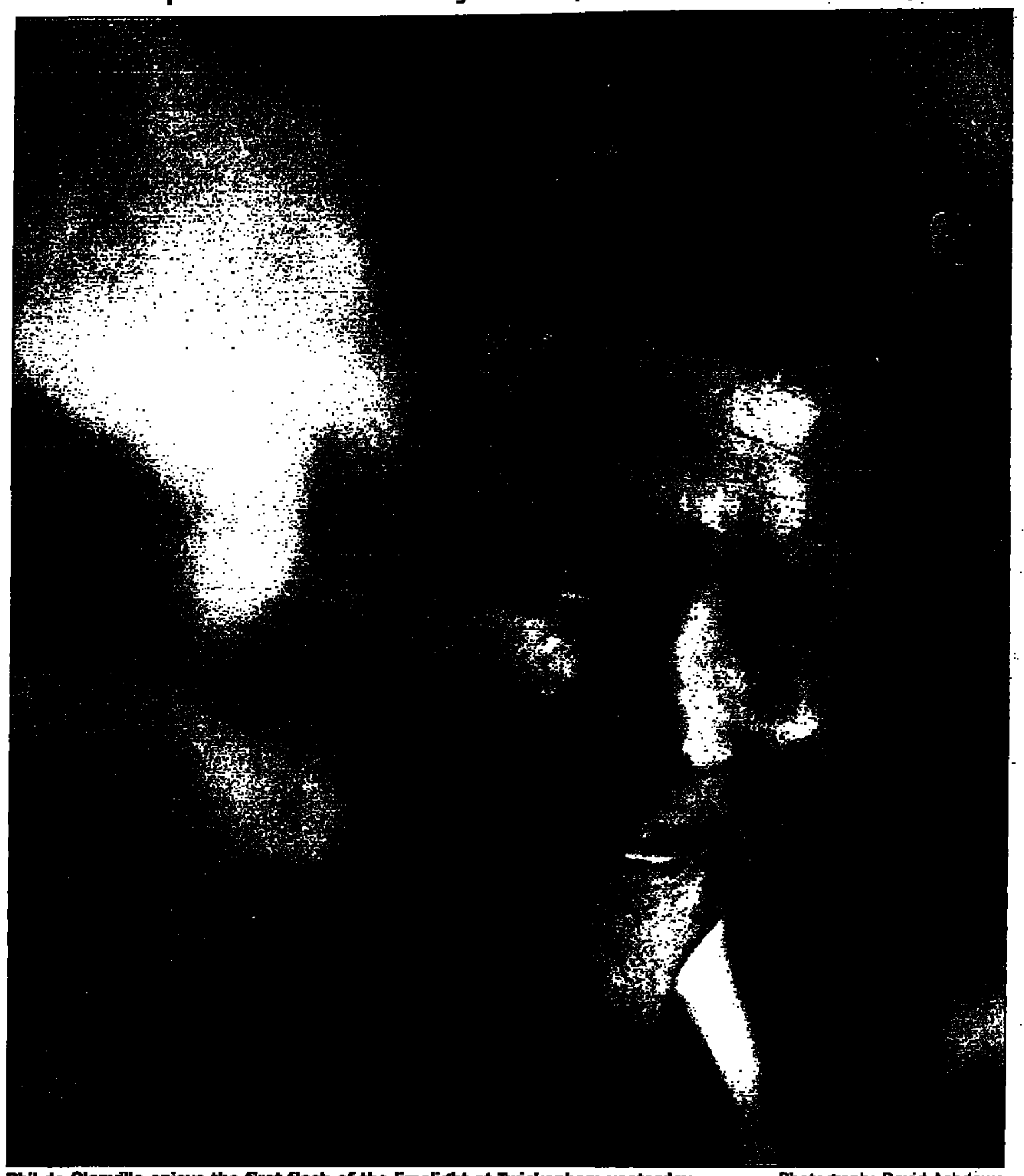
Renowned as a brilliant defensive centre, both as an individual tackler and a back-line organiser, De Glanville arrived at Bath after winning an Oxford Blue in 1990. There were early injury setbacks – his nose still points at an angle dictated by the knee of club-mate Andy Robinson, with whom he collided during a divisional match in London – but there was no serious doubt that he would live up to his England Students and England Under-21 pedigree.

His full international debut came in 1992, when he replaced the injured Carling during the later stages of the 33-16 victory over South Africa at Twickenham. When his Bath midfield partner, Jeremy Guscott, was forced to sit out the whole of the 1993-94 campaign because of chronic groin trouble, he was given an extended run in the England team and came close to breaking up the Carling-Guscott axis once and for all during the World Cup last year.

Ironically, it was on the day that Carling was axed, temporarily as it turned out, from the national captaincy for his RFU outburst – Pilkington Cup final day, 1995 – that De Glanville underlined his obvious leadership credentials. Hall, his club skipper, was forced out through injury at the last minute and after Bath had stampeded all over Wasps at Twickenham, the stand-in leader sought out his bitterly disappointed colleague and fairly manhandled him up the steps to receive the trophy. It was the first and only time that anyone forced Hall to do anything.

Although De Glanville had been a clear candidate for the England captaincy from the moment Carling quit last March, it was not until mid-afternoon on Monday that Rowell phoned to offer him the job. The coach had delayed his announcement, not just because of the continuing strife on the political front but because he was worried that his choice would not recover from knee trouble in time to face Italy on 23 November. When De Glanville came through unscathed for Bath against, of all people, the Italian side Treviso on Saturday, there was no longer any need to prolong the suspense.

"Before making my decision, I spoke to the multi-cap players who were not candidates for the captaincy and they all leaned towards Phil," Rowell said yesterday. One thing is for sure; when those players need him to, their new captain will lean over backwards to protect their interests both on and off the field.



Phil de Glanville enjoys the first flash of the limelight at Twickenham yesterday Photograph: David Ashdown

Wales snubbed by Quinnell

Scott Quinnell yesterday turned his back on Wales by breaking off financial talks between his agent, Mike Burton, and the Welsh Rugby Union.

Quinnell has been in dispute with the Welsh Rugby Union over payment since he returned to union from Wigan rugby league club last summer.

At one stage, the 23-year-old Richmond back row forward went on international strike in protest at what he termed unfair treatment, and was not considered for Wales' early-season internationals against France and Italy.

"I am surprised and disappointed that the WRU have changed the basis of their offer to me for the third time," said Quinnell, who won nine caps in 1993 and 1994.

"I had accepted their latest offer, even though it was still some way short of the financial package being offered to players currently playing for Welsh clubs.

"I was prepared to make that sacrifice to wear the red jersey again, but this latest turnabout by the WRU is most distressing."

Burton, the former England and Lions prop, has been in detailed negotiation with the WRU director of rugby, Terry Cobner, for six months, and it is understood Quinnell was offered a £20,000 lump sum, plus a £4,000 match fee and £4,000 win bonus.

Contracted WRU players currently earn a basic £30,000, plus various assorted appearance fees and win bonuses.

Burton said: "I am almost as disappointed as Scott at the breakdown in these talks. While no animosity exists between Scott and the WRU, we are resigned to the fact that Scott will not play international rugby this season.

"I have talked to Fran Cotton, manager of the Lions for next summer's tour to South Africa, and he is quite prepared to assess Scott on his club form when considering his party to take on the Springboks."

Quinnell, who was tipped to return when the Wales coach, Kevin Bowring, announces his team for next month's Test against Australia, said he felt sympathy for other English-based Welsh players like Harlequins' Gareth Llewellyn and the Bath flanker Richard Webster.

"I feel sorry for the other lads playing their club rugby in England, because they are being asked to accept so much less than Wales-based players who will be wearing the same jersey on match day," he claimed.

"It is very unfair, but more distressing is the unprofessional way that negotiations have been conducted by the WRU."

Dwyer criticises England

Leicester have selected Will Greenwood and Richard Cockerill for tonight's Anglo-Welsh Cup match at Neath, despite an England squad session being staged just hours earlier.

Bob Dwyer, the Tigers coach, has openly criticised England's international match preparations, claiming his players need the latest Bisham Abbey workout "like a hole in the head".

"When you are playing two tough games a week, this sort of thing does not make life any easier," he said. "If the England administration thinks we are teaching the players wrong techniques, then they are welcome to talk to us about it.

"My view is that we are preparing the current Leicester side well, and there is no need for this session. When I was Australian coach, I hardly ever saw my players until three days before a Test."

Leicester, unbeaten after two Anglo-Welsh matches, retain six of the side who finished last Saturday's European Cup victory over Llanelli.

Cardiff will not switch their Heineken European Cup quarter-final against Bath on 16 November from their own Arms Park ground to the neighbouring National Ground. The club ground can hold 12,000 and it is anticipated that nearly 30,000 spectators could have been attracted to the tie.

THE INDEPENDENT | INDEPENDENT | PHILIPS Let's make things better.

INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

FANTASY FOOTBALL

LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

Today we publish the latest results [illegible] our Independent Fantasy Football [illegible] They will [illegible] game, supported by *Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs*. [illegible] on Sunday.

Listed below you will find two scores. The Week 12 (Wk 12) column shows all points scored in matches played between Monday 28 October - Sunday 3 November inclusive. The Overall (Ov) column shows the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 3 November.

We are also publishing our Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Independent Fantasy Football managers and their teams for matches played between Saturday 17 August - Sunday 27 October.

Results will be published every Wednesday in The [illegible] on Sunday. The overall Top 50 League table will be printed every Wednesday and again on Sunday. Terms and conditions as previously published and available upon request.

SCORING SYSTEM

4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays ■ 1 point for a winning goal ■ 3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw ■ Lose 1 point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3 points for a red card

PRIZES

The overall winner at the end of the season will be the entrant who has accrued more points than any other Independent Fantasy Football team in that time. Win the ultimate prize - a trip to the 1998 World Cup in France. The winner, plus companion, will see all the action of a quarter-final and a semi-final of their choice, plus the final. In addition, the highest scoring team each month will win a pair of tickets to one of England's World Cup qualifying games at Wembley.

MONTH 2 PRIZEWINNER

Congratulations to our second month's winner Tony Hanna, from Isleworth, Middlesex who has scored 152 points with his team Hanna's Heroes. He has won a pair of tickets to see England v Italy on 12 February 1997. The second month's prize is for match-

TOP *Fifty* LEAGUE TABLE

CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 27 OCTOBER

POS.	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
1	Mr Chris Scott	Bruce Lee F C	365
2	Mr S A Scott	Foreign Backbone	[illegible]
3	Mr John Coxs	Southfill F C	359
4	Mr C Barry	Champion Aces I	[illegible]
4	Mrs A Vickers	Football Magic	356
6	Mr Aaron Jones	Catfron 2	[illegible]
6	Mr Paul Glazzard	Chocolate TeaPot	355
8	Mr Keith Horry	Organic Manure F C	[illegible]
9	Mr G Jones	Avanorlast United	353
10	Mr Steve Basnett	Bazzy's Defence	[illegible]
10	Mr R Northcroft	I Know Your Wife	352
12	Mr S King	[illegible]	[illegible]
13	Mr Husam Sathry	I'm off to France United	350
14	Mr S Lawrence	[illegible]	[illegible]
14	Mr Steven Hart	Kees Cowboys	349
14	Mr C Britton	[illegible]	[illegible]
17	Mr John Perkins	Hamoaze Racing F C	348
18	Mr J Lippitts	[illegible]	[illegible]
18	Mr Adam Hogg	Blaggy Hogg	347
18	Mr A Burman	[illegible]	[illegible]
21	Dr Tom Boyle	Last Gasp Gullits	346
21	Mr Mark Shelvey	[illegible]	[illegible]
21	Mr P Frankental	Arlensiu	346
21	Mr Michael Dews	[illegible]	[illegible]
21	Mr Richard Watson	Better Without Ball F C	346
21	Mr D J Robinson	[illegible]	[illegible]
21	Mr Chris Thomas	Scunthorpe Exiles	346
28	Mr Ian Boyle	[illegible]	[illegible]
28	Mr D R Baker	Baker Boys 5	345
28	Ms C M Down	[illegible]	[illegible]
28	Mr David Edmondson	Edmo United	345
32	Mr Stuart Jones	[illegible]	[illegible]
32	Ms Jill Walton	The Alternatives	344
34	Mr Jonathan [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
34	Mr Graham Longsdane	Sandlings Strollers	343
34	Mr Paul Davies	[illegible]	[illegible]
37	Mr D J Hornby	Good Evans	342
37	Mr Andrew Clark	[illegible]	[illegible]
37	Mr Andrew Boyjec	Great Home Deed	342
37	Mr Peter [illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
37	Mr Paddy Falls	Curlonan Crackers	342
43	Mr R Jones	[illegible]	[illegible]
43	Mr M Crosland	Osney C Lyons	341
43	Mr Ian Newcastle	S G W	[illegible]
43	Mr D Welbourne	Defensive Posture	341
47	Mr S Walls	[illegible]	[illegible]
47	Mr David Ashton	T G Lodgers	340
47	Mr David Robinson	[illegible]	[illegible]
47	Mr David Highmash	The Solid Drips Kings	340
47	Mr Jonathan Cox	[illegible]	[illegible]

TEAM MARKET AND SCORES

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 3 NOVEMBER; WEEK 12 SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 28 OCTOBER - 3 NOVEMBER

PHILIPS *Energy Saver* LIGHT BULBS

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS Wk12	POINTS Ov	VALUE (£m)
	GOALKEEPERS				
300	Seaman	ARS	1	38	5.9
303	Bosnich	AV	0	5	4.0
304	Flowers	BLA	5	19	5.2
305	Kharine	CHE	0	21	3.7
306	Hitchcock	CHE	1	12	1.5
307	Ogrizovic	COV	0	22	[illegible]
308	Filan	COV	0	5	1.5
309	Southall	EVE	5	25	3.0
330	Martyn	LEE	5	38	3.3
333	James	LIV	1	27	4.7
335	Poole	LEI	1	1	1.5
336	Hoult	DER	5	24	1.5
337	Schmeichel	MU	1	25	5.5
338	Walsh	MID	1	6	3.0
339	Srnicek	NEW	1	27	3.7
340	Hislop	NEW	0	1	3.7
343	Crossley	NOT	2	10	2.7
344	Wright	NOT	0	0	1.3
345	Beasant	SOT	0	16	1.8
346	Pressman	SW	1	24	[illegible]
347	Coton	SUN	0	16	1.8
348	Walker	TOT	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.4
349	Miklosko	WH	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.0
350	Sullivan	WIM	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.8
	DEFENDERS				
400	Dixon	ARS	1	[illegible]	3.1
403	Winterburn	ARS	1	[illegible]	3.1
404	Bould	ARS	1	[illegible]	3.0
405	Adams	ARS	1	[illegible]	5.3
406	Keown	ARS	0	[illegible]	3.7
407	Staunton	AV	0	[illegible]	3.0
408	Southgate	AV	5	[illegible]	5.2
409	McGrath	DER	5	[illegible]	3.0
430	Ehiogu	AV	5	[illegible]	3.0
433	Wright	AV	5	[illegible]	[illegible]
434	Tiler	AV	12	[illegible]	[illegible]
435	[illegible]	BLA	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
436	[illegible]	BLA	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
437	[illegible]	BLA	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
438	Hendry	BLA	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
439	Kenna	[illegible]	[illegible]	15	1.9
440	Duberry	[illegible]	4	6	3.0
[illegible]	Petrescu	CHE	0	26	3.0
[illegible]	Phelan	CHE	0	1	[illegible]
[illegible]	Leboeuf	CHE	4	[illegible]	4.4
446	Sinclair	CHE	0	0	2.2
447	Minto	CHE	1	17	1.3
448	Daish	COV	0	16	2.7
449	Shaw	COV	0	15	2.2
450	Burrows	COV	0	10	2.2
453	Stimac	DER	0	15	[illegible]
454	Powell (C)	DER	4	22	1.8
455	Wassall	DER	0	[illegible]	2.2
456	Short	EVE	9	43	3.0
457	Watson	EVE	5	10	2.7
458	Unsworth	EVE	5	40	3.0
459	Hottiger	EVE	0	1	2.2
460	Hinchcliffe	[illegible]	[illegible]	39	1.9
463	Jobson	LEE	0	20	2.7
464	Kelly	LEE	5	27	3.6
465	Wetherall	LEE	5	23	3.5
466	Dorigo	LEE	0	[illegible]	3.2
467	Pemberton	LEE	0	[illegible]	1.2
468	Walsh	LEI	0	22	2.2
469	Grayson	LEI	1	26	3.2
470	Whitlow	LEI	1	25	1.2
473	Watts	LEI	1	31	1.6
474	Babb	LIV	0	28	3.7
475	Jones (R)	LIV	0	0	2.7
476	Wright	LIV	1	22	2.8
477	Ruddock	LIV	0	2	3.0
478	Scales	LIV	0	6	4.4

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS Wk12	POINTS Ov	VALUE (£m)
479	Harkness	LIV	0	0	2.2
480	Neville (G)	MU	0	23	3.7
483	Neville (P)	MU	0	8	3.7
484	Irwin	MU	1	36	4.1
485	Pallister	MU	0	20	4.9
486	May	MU	[illegible]	31	3.0
[illegible]	Vickers	MID	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.2
[illegible]	Pearson	MID	[illegible]	5	2.2
[illegible]	Whyte	MID	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.2
490	Cox	MID	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.5
[illegible]	Albert	NEW	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.1
494	Howey	NEW	0	[illegible]	[illegible]
495	Peacock	NEW	1	27	3.0
496	Barton	NEW	1	[illegible]	[illegible]
497	Beresford	NEW	0	24	[illegible]
498	Cooper	NOT	1	17	[illegible]
499	Chettle	NOT	2	15	[illegible]
500	Jerkan	NOT	0	12	2.9
503	Lyttle	NOT	2	6	1.8
504	Pearce	NOT	1	20	3.4
[illegible]	Monkou	SOT	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.5
[illegible]	Dodd	SOT	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Benali	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Charlton	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Nolan	SW	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
530	Atherton	SW	[illegible]	28	1.9
533	Walker	SW	[illegible]	19	2.5
534	Stefanovic	SW	[illegible]	21	1.6
535	Melville	SUN	1	31	2.2
536	Kubicki	SUN	0	23	1.2
537	Ball	SUN	1	34	2.2
538	Campbell	[illegible]	5	36	3.7
539	Calderwood	TOT	[illegible]	33	2.9
540	Austin	TOT	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
543	Edinburgh	TOT	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
544	Mabbutt	TOT	0	[illegible]	[illegible]
545	Dicks	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
546	Bilic	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
547	Rieper	WH	1	22	2.7
548	Hall	WH	0	0	2.7
549	Bowen	WH	0	25	2.2
550	Pearce	WIM	0	0	2.2
553	Reeves	WIM	0	0	1.8
554	Thorn	WIM	0	0	1.8
555	Thatcher	WIM	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	MIDFIELDERS				
600	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
603	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
604	[illegible]	ARS	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
605	[illegible]	ARS	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
606	[illegible]	ARS	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.5
607	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.9
608	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	13	3.1
609	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	12	4.1
630	[illegible]	BLA	0	15	3.0
633	[illegible]	BLA	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.7
634	[illegible]	BLA	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.0
635	[illegible]	BLA	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
636	[illegible]	BLA	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
637	[illegible]	CHE	[illegible]	6	4.4
638	Di Matteo	CHE	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
639	Wise	CHE	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
640	[illegible]	CHE	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.4
643	[illegible]	CHE	0	0	2.1
644	[illegible]	COV	[illegible]	15	2.4
645	Telfer	COV	0	7	1.8
646	Richardson	COV	0	7	2.4
647	McAllister	COV	0	14	3.0
648	Jess	COV	0	7	2.2
649	Simpson	DER	1	15	1.2
650	Asanovic	DER	1	19	2.2
653	Van Der Laan	DER	0	2	1.6
654	Ebbrell	EVE	0	4	1.9

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS Wk12	POINTS Ov	VALUE (£m)
655	Kanchelskis	EVE	[illegible]	17	[illegible]
656	Parkinson	EVE	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
657	Stuart	EVE	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.5
658	Grant	EVE	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.2
659	Bowyer	LEE	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.0
660	Wallace	LEE	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.8
663	Palmer	LEE	[illegible]	[illegible]	3.0
664	Barnes	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
665	Redknapp	LIV	1	[illegible]	[illegible]
666	McManaman	LIV	1	[illegible]	[illegible]
667	McAteer	[illegible]	1	[illegible]	[illegible]
668	Thomas	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
669	Giggs	[illegible]	[illegible]	17	7.4
670	Beckham	[illegible]	1	33	5.2
673	Keane	[illegible]	1	2	6.5
674	Butt	[illegible]	0	[illegible]	4.5
675	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Juninho	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Emerson	[illegible]	0	[illegible]	[illegible]
678	Hignett	[illegible]	0	0	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	[illegible]	[illegible]
689	Stone	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
690	Gemmill	[illegible]	2	[illegible]	3.0
693	Parker	LEI	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.5
694	Taylor	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
695	Izzet	LEI	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	SW	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	SW	0	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
70[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.4
703	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	-1	2.7
704	[illegible]	TOT	0	10	2.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	SUN	1	15	3.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	SUN	0	8	2.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	SUN	0	12	3.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	TOT	0	6	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	TOT	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	TOT	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	TOT	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	WH	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Dumitrescu	WH	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Hughes	WH	1	[illegible]	[illegible]
737	Moncur	WH	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
738	Bishop	WH	1	5	3.0
739	Jones	WIM	5	17	2.8
740	Earle	WIM	4	[illegible]	3.1
743	Ardley	WIM	[illegible]	[illegible]	2.0
744	Fear	WIM	0	1	2.0
	STRIKERS				
800	Bergkamp	ARS	1	28	7.0
803	Wright	ARS	8	52	7.2
804	[illegible]	ARS	8	21	[illegible]
806	Yorke	AV	5	37	6.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	AV	0	12	[illegible]
808	[illegible]	AV	1	27	[illegible]
809	[illegible]	AV	0	10	[illegible]
830	Shearer	NEW	0	52	11.1
834	Sutton	BLA	[illegible]	33	3.7
835	Vialli	CHE	6	41	8.1
836	Hughes	CHE	1	19	4.4
837	Spencer	CHE	0	6	2.5
838	Dublin	COV	0	18	4.7
839	Whelan	COV	0	14	5.2
840	Ndlovu	COV	0	3	4.3
843	Gabbiadini	DER	0	12	3.5

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS Wk12	POINTS Ov	VALUE (£m)
844	Ward	DER	4	13	2.5
845	Sturridge	DER	1	13	3.0
846	Ferguson	EVE	0	14	6.7
847	Amokachi	EVE	0	0	3.7
848	Rideout	EVE	0	3	3.0
849	Yeboah	LEE	0	0	[illegible]
850	Rush	LEE	1	14	5.2
853	Deane	LEE	5	7	3.0
854	Collymore	LIV	1	20	8.1
855	Fowler	LIV	0	38	9.5
856	Claridge	LEI	1	21	3.0
857	Heskey	LEI	0	31	2.8
[illegible]	Robins	LEI	0	1	2.0
[illegible]	Cantona	MU	0	27	8.1
[illegible]	Scholes	MU	1	10	5.0
[illegible]	Cole	MU	0	[illegible]	6.2
[illegible]	Fjortoft	MID	0	0	3.1
[illegible]	Ravanelli	MID	1	42	8.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	EVE	0	17	6.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	NEW	9	21	4.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	NEW	1	7	7.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	NEW	4	48	8.6
[illegible]	Saunders	NOT	2	26	5.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	NOT	2	6	4.8
874	[illegible]	NOT	0	21	3.1
875	Booth	SW	1	37	4.4
876	Hirst	SW	0	10	5.5
877	Bright	SW	0	1	2.5
[illegible]	Le Tissier	SOT	5	40	7.0
[illegible]	Shipperley	SOT	0	20	3.7
880	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	[illegible]	2.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4	2.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	SUN	[illegible]	13	2.3
[illegible]	Sheringham	TOT	1	19	7.4
886	Armstrong	TOT	6	31	5.9
[illegible]	Rosenthal	TOT	1	8	2.1
888	Futre	WH	1	10	4.0
889	Raducioiu	WH	0	5	5.1
890	Dowie	WH	1	9	3.3
[illegible]	Holdsworth	[illegible]	0	[illegible]	4.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	0	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	WIM	1	[illegible]	2.7
	MANAGERS				
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Ferguson	[illegible]	0	[illegible]	[illegible]
904	Evans	LIV	0	23	7.0
905	Rioch*	ARS	0	0	6.0
906	Royle	EVE	3	15	5.5
907	Harford	BLA	0	4	5.5
908	Francis	TOT	3	17	5.0
909	Wilkinson*	LEE	0	7	3.5
930	Redknapp	WH	0	14	3.5
933	Gullit	CHE	3	22	4.5
934	Clark	NOT	0	8	3.3
935	Robson	MID	0	13	5.0
936	Reid	SUN	0	13	2.0
937	Souness	SOT	1	13	2.3
938	O'Neill	LEI	0	12	1.8
939	Smith	DER	3	14	2.0
940	Kinnear	WIM	1	23	2.2
943	Atkinson	COV	0	8	4.0
944	Little	AV	3	18	5.0
945	Pleat	SW	1	16	3.5

* Currently out of management

Scores are subject to FA confirmation

صكا من الاحمل

Samoa prove too tough for students

Rugby Union

DAVID LLEWELLYN

Oxford University 27
Western Samoa 58

Oxford University will not need too many bruising encounters like this one at Iffley Road yesterday. The Dark Blues will wake up black and blue after an entertaining match against a ferocious side boasting some half a dozen internationals.

The students were rather unlucky to get Western Samoa on the rebound from a hammering at the hands of Saracens on Saturday. With only one more match, against Munster on Saturday, before they take on Ireland the tourists adopted a tough approach to this match.

They still found Oxford a handful. The Oxford scrum learned valuable lessons and improved throughout and the line-outs were never a procession of possession for the tourists. Outside-half James Averis, three months into his return following 18 months out with cruciate ligament damage to a knee, put in a classy and mature performance. *His kicking style*, measured, easy and most important of all, accurate, betrayed some concentrated session work with the kicking guru, Dave Alred, and Rob Andrew during his rehabilitation.

Averis helped himself to 17 points, including a well-taken try in the first half, and the second of his three conversions nosed Oxford ahead for seven minutes near the start of the second half. But the bodily hardness and the very size of the tourists and their fearsome tackling told as they ran in eight tries, six of them after the interval as the Dark Blues began to feel the pace.

Oxford can take heart from the way they tackled. They have probably never had to make quite so many in a game, and will never have been hit quite so hard. One tackle by a Samoan on full-back Richie Maber folded him in two. Remarkably he recovered his wind and finished the game like his colleagues, in spirited fashion.

Both sides showed a willingness to run the ball, even from kickable penalties. Although a bit of niggle crept in at the end, the referee, Chris Reeks, quickly doused the sparks, showing Afa Leu'u a yellow card towards the end.

Oxford University: Tries Averis, Smart, penalty try; Conversions Averis 3; Penalties Averis 2. **Western Samoa:** Tries Patu 2, Fatialofa 2, So'oalo, Feaunati, Toala, Toleafoa; Conversions Tanoai 6; Penalties Tanoai 2.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: R Maber (University); J Smart (Trinity), J Blondet (Mansfield), G Williams (Keble), R Browne (University); J Averis (St Cross), N Hogan (Merton); J Bothwell (Merton), N Hockley (Worcester), D Penney (Wolfson), T Eisenhauer (St Anne's), A Roberts (New College), J Britton (New College, C McCarthy (Templeton), K Spicer (St Anne's). Replacements: J Kindon (Queen's) for Britton, 24-35; J Finnegan (Jesus, 80) for Eisenhauer.

WESTERN SAMOA: V Patu; A So'oalo, G Leaupepa, M Fatialofa, F Toala; F Tanoai, V Vitale; B Reidy, T Leota, A Leu'u, M Birtwhistle (capt), L Tone, S Vaili, K Toleafoa, S Smith. Replacements: I Feaunati for Smith, 48; P Leavasu for Reidy, 61; P Fili for Patu, 61; T Fanolua for Leaupepa, 67.

Referee: C Reeks (Frome).

Europeans trail behind in Saintly's path

Racing

RICHARD EDMONDSON

For many years the Breeders' Cup series has been telling European runners that they are rather like fish flapping on the river bank when they are hauled out of their own environment, and the Melbourne Cup is beginning to take on the same appeal. Vintage Crop set the float twitching when he was successful for Ireland three years ago, but in Australia yesterday the three travellers from the northern hemisphere showed what a huge achievement Vintage Crop's win was when finishing down the field behind Saintly, who had not been sent across the time zones. Grey Shot was seventh, the favourite Oscar Schindler 15th, while Court Of Honour beat just two of the 22 runners home.

It was another day when the equine skills of Michael Kinane, Oscar Schindler's jockey, were brought into question. Kinane, who partnered Vintage Crop to victory in 1993, was the recipient of the sort of abuse you would not give an errant dog when defeated on the same horse the following year, and his judgement was again under scrutiny in Victoria last night.

The jockey had persuaded Oliver Lehane, Oscar Schindler's owner, to tackle this assignment in preference to the Breeders' Cup Turf at Woodbine, in which a horse he had finished alongside in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, Pilsudski, was successful.

Just after the field swung into the Flemington straight, however, Kinane knew he would be addressing a post-mortem. "You have to take a stand and make a decision," he said. "We felt, not just me but the trainer too, that he was the right horse. At his best you would have expected him to beat them.

"I asked him for an effort coming out of the home turn but it was short-lived. This was a disappointment and I have no excuses. Maybe the long year has taken its toll on him as he has been running since April."

Oscar Schindler's gloomy display could not have been predicted in the parade ring as he strode round in front of the near 100,000 congregation with persuading imperiousness. The prospects of Peter Chapple-Hyam's Court Of Honour were less easy to trump up as he performed like a tap dancer, but Grey Shot, Ian Balding's runner, looked *composed*.

> RICHARD EDMONDSON
> NAP: Master Orchestra
> (Kempton 3.05)
> NB: Karicleigh Man
> (Newton Abbot 1.25)

Pat Eddery may have been mindful that foreign-jockey error is not favourably reported in the Antipodes when he sent Grey Shot into a leading position from which there could be little criticism. He at least takes home the distinction of having been in front for longer than any other, a post wrested from him only in the home straight.

While Eddery enjoyed the experience as a whole, he cannot have gloried too much in the sight of those better suited to the ground sweeping past him. "I really enjoyed it, very exciting," he said. "But it's just a shame he doesn't like fast ground. The speed horses came and got him for a turn of foot."

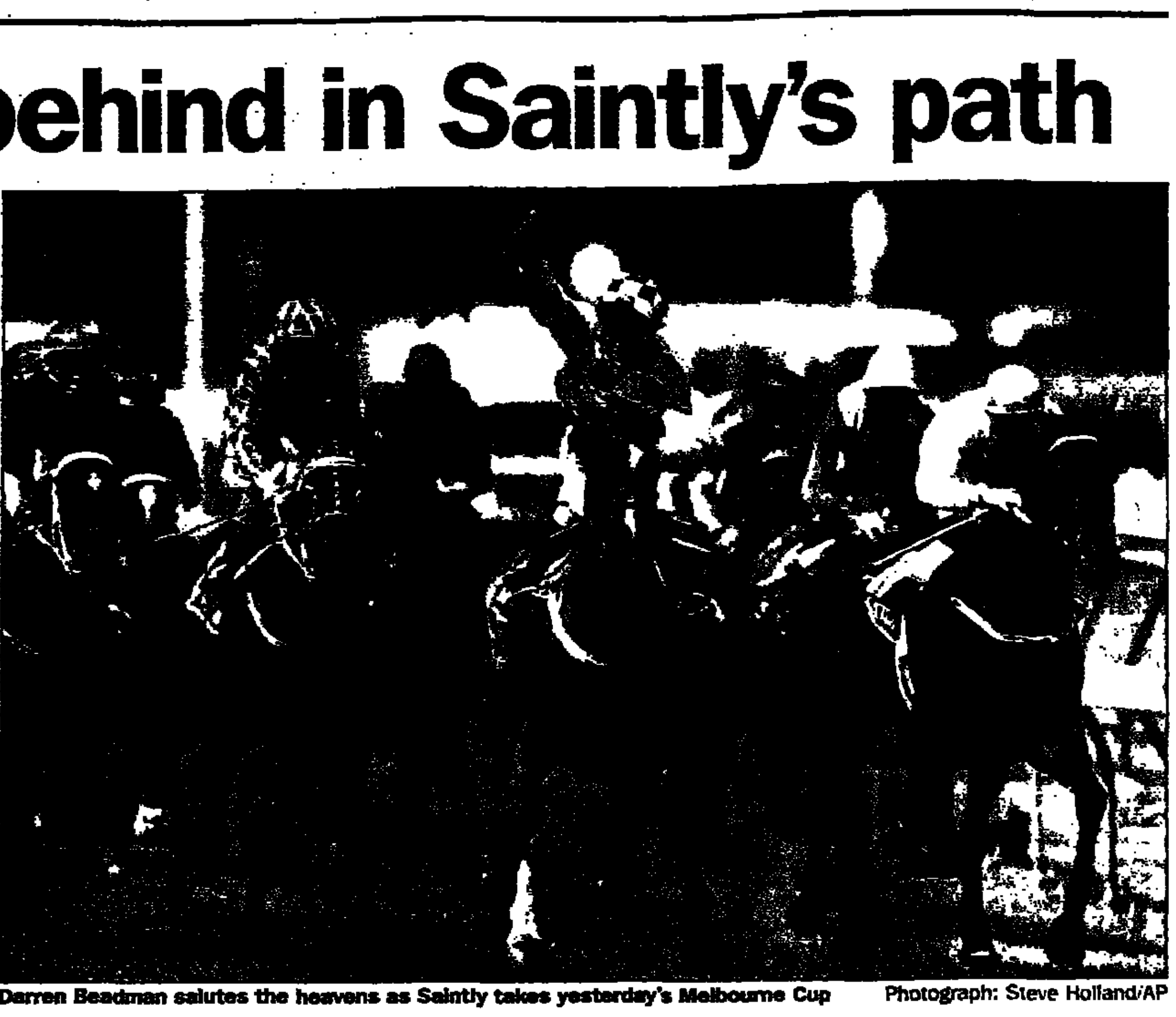
The speediest was Saintly, an 8-1 shot who gave Bart Cummings his 10th win in the race, a tribute to his training abilities and longevity. "I was very impressed with the way he [Saintly] quickened," Eddery said. "He came there cruising, he let him go and he took off. He's obviously a high-class horse."

Just how talented Saintly is may be revealed when he tackles the Japan Cup this month. British horses will again get their chance to put a missile in his structure in Tokyo. Until then, 68-year-old Cummings can bask in this achievement and polish the trophy that was struck to celebrate his milestone. "This is very special and I savour it very much," he said.

Darren Beadman, the winning rider, was capturing the race for the second time and the name of his mount was rather ironic for a man who was run out of Hong Kong for alleged irregularities and who praised *heavenly powers for this success*. He also paid tribute to the man who is well ahead of him in terms of Cup collections. "Bart Cummings is an absolute genius with a capital G," he said. That may be so, but Europe's performances in the Melbourne Cup are becoming increasingly risible with a capital R.

MELBOURNE CUP

1. SAINTLY (D Beadman) 8-1; **2. Count Chivas** 33-1; **3. Skybeam** 50-1. 22 ran. 4-1 fav Oscar Schindler (15th). 2¾, nk. (Trained by J B Cummings). Also: Grey Shot (7th), Court Of Honour (20th). Tote: £6.80; £2.40, £10.00, £19.60. SF: £125.70. DF: £58.20. Non Runners *Crying Game & Magnet Bay*.



Darren Beadman salutes the heavens as Saintly takes yesterday's Melbourne Cup Photograph: Steve Holland/AP

HAYDOCK

HYPERION

1.15 Falcon's Flame 1.45 Trade Wind 2.15 Stately Home 2.45 Three Wild Days 3.15 Chai-Yo 3.45 Imperial Vintage 4.15 Marello

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places).
■ *Left-hand course with drop fences and run-in of two furlongs.*
■ Course is at junction of A580 and M6. Newton station 2m. ADMISSION: County Stand £14; Tattersalls £8; Newton Stand £8.50 (OAPs half-price in Tattersalls & Newton Stand). CAR PARK: Free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Stately Home (2.15) won at Wetherby on Saturday.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: No Pain No Gain (2.15) has been sent 242 miles by J Gifford from Findon, W Sussex.

1.15 BIRCHFIELD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 3YO 2m

1 12 ALWAYS HAPPY (83) (BF) M Pipe 11 1 ..C Maude
2 APPEAL AGAIN D Burchell 11 0 ..D J Burchell
3 BALLYKISSANGEL N Bycroft 11 0 ..D Bentley
4 2 FALCON'S FLAME (USA) (21) Mrs J Ramsden 11 0 ..R Garritty
5 24 GLOBE RUNNER (21) (BF) J J O'Neill 11 0 ..A Roche
6 GRASSHOPPER J Spearing 11 0 ..Michael Brennan (5)
7 JOHN-T J Berry 11 0 ..L O'Hara
8 KINGFISHER BRAVE M Meagher 11 0 ..L Wyer
9 MELTEMISON M Hammond 11 0 ..Mr C Bonner (3)
10 F ROYAL THEN (FR) (25) J Neville 11 0 ..N Williamson
11 SNOW DOMINO J M Jefferson 11 0 ..M Dwyer
12 0 SON OF ANSHAN (21) Mrs A Swinbank 11 0 ..J Supple
13 STAR BLAKENEY G Barnett 11 0 ..R Farrant
14 63 STOLEAMARCH (12) A Forbes 11 0 ..T Eley
15 WHOTHEHELLISHARRY J Berry 11 0 ..M Moloney
16 4 PROVE THE POINT (27) Mrs N Dutfield 10 9 ..Mr L Jefford
17 RADMORE BRANDY P Evans 10 9 ..Gary Lyons
18 SOUSSE Mrs M Reveley 10 9 ..P Niven
– 18 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Falcon's Flame, 7-2 Always Happy, 13-2 Globe Runner, 8-1 Snow Domino, 9-1 Sousse, 10-1 Meltemison, Royal Then, 14-1 Kingfisher Brave, Prove The Point, Stoleamarch, 16-1 others

1.45 PRESTON AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,750 2m 4f

1 23221- PALOSANTO (219) M Pipe 6 11 10 ..Mr A Farrant (5)
2 U5445-P CORRARDER (32) J Smyth-Osbourne 12 10 5 ..Mr A Brown (7)
3 006-121 TRADE WIND (65) (D) D Bassett 5 10 2 ..Miss K Di Marte (7)
4 0/0445- ZIP YOUR LIP (219) Mrs P Townsley 6 10 0 ..Miss C Townsley (7)
– 4 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Zip Your Lip 9st 9lb.
BETTING: 4-6 Palosanto, 3-1 Corrarder, Trade Wind, 12-1 Zip Your Lip

2.15 RADIO CITY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £8,000 added 2m

1 214021- NO PAIN NO GAIN (200) (D) J Gifford 8 11 10 ..B Storey
2 4U2241 STATELY HOME (4) (D) P Bowen 5 11 10 (5ex) ..Mr R Thornton (7)
3 331455- PATS MINSTREL (183) (D) R Champion 11 11 0 ..A Dobbin
4 0/0012-1 EASTERN MAGIC (18) (D) G Barnett 8 10 0 ..R Farrant
– 4 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Eastern Magic 9st 5lb.
BETTING: 7-4 Stately Home, 9-4 No Pain No Gain, 4-1 Eastern Magic, 10-1 Pats Minstrel

2.45 WARRINGTON NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m

1 453-13 NORDIC BREEZE (10) (D) (BF) M Pipe 4 11 4 ..N Williamson
2 ADVANCE EAST M Dods 4 10 12 ..R Supple
3 440- GALEN (242) Mrs M Reveley 5 10 12 ..P Niven
4 0- GRANDINARE (USA) (347) J J O'Neill 4 10 12 ..R McGrath (5)
5 0- HEIGHTH OF FAME (184) D Burchell 5 10 12 ..D J Burchell
6 P- INTENDANT (298) J FitzGerald 4 10 12 ..M Dwyer
7 63-5 PENTLANDS FLYER (11) N Twiston-Davies 5 10 12 ..C Maude
8 ROOD MUSIC M Meagher 5 10 12 ..L Wyer
9 ROYRACE W Brisbourne 4 10 12 ..S Wynne
10 SCOTT'S RISK L Barratt 6 10 12 ..Richard Guest
11 0 SEGALA (12) J J O'Neill 5 10 12 ..A Roche
12 STAR SELECTION J Mackie 5 10 12 ..E Husband (5)
13 00424- THREE WILD DAYS (229) T Tate 4 10 12 ..R Garritty
14 CLEUDIMEL NEWS A Forbes 6 10 7 ..T Eley
– 14 declared –

BETTING: 11-4 Nordic Breeze, 3-1 Pentlands Flyer, 6-1 Star Selection, 7-1 Galen, 9-1 Three Wild Days, 10-1 Intendant, 12-1 others

3.15 RADIO CITY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m

1 3/13451- SEASONAL SPLENDOUR (195) (D) M Pipe 6 12 0 ..C Maude
2 031541- LORD MCMURROUGH (189) J Neville 6 11 9 ..R Farrant
3 002021- THURSDAY NIGHT (202) J FitzGerald 5 11 7 ..L Wyer
4 004345- COOL LUKE (211) (D) F Murphy 7 11 5 ..N Williamson
5 241021- CHAI-YO (223) J Old 6 11 3 ..G Upton
6 621065- SAINT CIEL (USA) (186) (CD) F Jordan 8 11 3 ..S Wynne
– 6 declared –

BETTING: 6-4 Seasonal Splendour, 3-1 Chai-Yo, 9-2 Lord McMurrough, 6-1 Thursday Night, 8-1 Cool Luke, 12-1 Saint Ciel

3.45 GLENGOYNE NOVICE CHASE (SERIES QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £5,500 added 3m

1 F3-1121 IMPERIAL VINTAGE (13) Miss V Williams 6 11 12 ..N Williamson
2 00P64/ CHERRY ORCHID (547) J Needham 9 11 2 ..R Supple
3 35/634-3 MONYMOSS (8) Mrs S Smith 7 11 2 ..R Wilkinson (7)
4 ROYAL PARIS Mrs S Smith 8 11 2 ..Richard Guest
5 111503- WISLEY WONDER (196) N Twiston-Davies 6 11 2 ..C Maude
– 5 declared –

BETTING: 5-4 Wisley Wonder, 7-4 Imperial Vintage, 6-1 Monymoss, 7-1 Royal Paris, 25-1 Cherry Orchid

4.15 WEATHERBYS 'STARS OF TOMORROW' MARES NH FLAT RACE (H) £1,550 2m

1 11- MARELLO (200) Mrs M Reveley 5 11 10 ..G Cahill (3)
2 3/ BRIDLED TERN (567) J M Jefferson 5 11 0 ..E Callaghan (5)
3 COUNTRY ORCHID Mrs M Reveley 5 11 0 ..P Niven
4 30 GABRIELLE GERARD (25) Mrs A Naughton 4 11 0 ..Richard Guest
5 0- HERBALLISTIC (210) J O'Shea 4 11 0 ..Michael Brennan (5)
6 6- HURST FLYER (207) F Murtagh 4 11 0 ..A Dobbin
7 LADY ROSEBURY R Price 6 11 0 ..N Williamson
8 5 LIPPY LOUISE (25) Mrs M Reveley 4 11 0 ..R Hodge
9 LOVELY RASCAL J J O'Neill 4 11 0 ..R McGrath (5)
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 11-8 Marello, 3-1 Bridled Tern, 5-1 Country Orchid, 8-1 Lippy Louise, 10-1 Lady Rosebury, Lovely Rascal, 12-1 others

Towers' chance to progress

Basketball

RICHARD TAYLOR

London Towers must capitalise on the absence of Verona's leading scorer Mike Iuzzolino at Wembley Court tonight to press their claims for a top-four finish in their European Cup group and a place in the knock-out stage.

London suffered two defeats in their first five games, but a weakened Verona are ideal opponents to begin the second half of their fixtures. Iuzzolino, the former Dallas Maverick, was injured in Verona's last Italian League fixture.

Towers lost 76-48 against Verona in their opening group game without the injured England internationals Karl Brown and 6ft 10in Neville Austin. Victory tonight and in their two other home games, against Tbilisi of Georgia and Yugoslavia's Podgorica, will assure a top-four finish and ease the pressure for away games in Turkey and Hungary.

NATIONAL CUP Quarter-finals: Friday 15 November: Sheffield v Leicester; London Towers v Manchester; Newcastle v Birmingham. Saturday 16 November: Thames Valley v London Leopards.

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NEWTON ABBOT

HYPERION

1.25 Kendal Cavalier 1.55 Mutawali 2.25 Punters Overhead 2.55 Mr Cotton Socks 3.25 Frogmarch 3.55 Bond Jnr 4.25 Ivory Charmer

GOING: Soft (Heavy in a few places).
■ *Left-hand, sharp, course with short run-in.*
■ Course is north of town on A380. Newton Abbot station 1m. ADMISSION: Tattersalls £8.50; Course £4. Accompanied under-16s free. CAR PARK: On rails £1.50, remainder free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Colour Scheme (visored) (1.55).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Glowing Path (1.55) won at Warwick on Saturday.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Peasant Cottage (1.25) has been sent 169 miles by Miss K Whitehouse from Church Stretton, Salop.

1.25 ANFIELD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 3f

1 142F30- BRAMBLEHILL BUCK (238) P Nicholls 7 10 10 ..A P McCoy
2 52000-4 CASTLECONNER (21) R Frost 5 10 10 ..J Frost
3 0520-23 COPPER COIL (7) W G M Turner 6 10 10 ..J Power (7)
4 13163/ DENISE'S PROFILES (578) N Twiston-Davies 6 10 10 ..D Bridgwater
5 502- KARICLEIGH MAN (250) P Hobbs 6 10 10 ..R Dunwoody
6 2455-2 KENDAL CAVALIER (14) G Balding 6 10 10 ..B Fenton
7 30605-4 MU-TADIL (23) R Baker 4 10 10 ..D Leahy
8 R22 RARE SPREAD (35) (BF) M Pipe 6 10 10 ..G Bradley
9 HOPPERDANTE T George 6 10 5 ..R Johnson
10 54F0P-4 PEASANT COTTAGE (28) Miss K Whitehouse 8 10 5 ..Chris Webb (5)
11 2-P5524 UP THE TEMPO (70) Paddy Farrell 7 10 5 ..W Marston
– 11 declared –

BETTING: 11-4 Denise's Profiles, 3-1 Kendal Cavalier, 4-1 Karicleigh Man, 6-1 Bramblehill Buck, 8-1 Rare Spread, 12-1 Copper Coil, 16-1 others

1.55 OLD TRAFFORD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,450 2m 1f

1 214650- TOUCH SILVER (187) (D) H Manners 6 12 0 ..A Dowling (7)
2 2-2050R SOVEREIGN NICHE (14) (CD) M Pipe 8 11 2 ..G Supple (7)
3 40/4-421 GLOWING PATH (4) (CD) R Hodges 6 10 12 ..J Harris (7)
4 UP3U3-1 MUTAWALI (20) (D) R Baker 6 10 11 ..D Leahy
5 1-46223 NORDIC CROWN (14) (D) M Pipe 5 10 10 ..A P McCoy B
6 66465P- ALICE'S MIRROR (212) (D) K Bishop 7 10 9 ..R Johnson
7 0140/ AL HAAL (USA) (1,298) R O'Sullivan 7 10 7 ..A McCabe
8 355/0U- ROYAL STANDARD (252) P Rich 9 10 8 ..D Flanagan (7) V
9 /PPP COLOUR SCHEME (21) H Howe 9 10 4 ..B McGann (7) V
10 /25P INDIAN MINOR (34) R Pocock 12 10 0 ..D J Kavanagh (5) B
11 5/4506 SCALP 'EM (20) Dr P Pritchard 8 10 0 ..Dr P Pritchard
12 PUP/PPV NICK'S CHOICE (705) A Newcombe 6 10 0 ..A Thornton
– 12 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Indian Minor 9st 10lb, Scalp 'Em 9st 5lb, Nick's Choice 9st.
BETTING: 5-2 Mutawali, 11-4 Glowing Path, 4-1 Nordic Crown, 8-1 Alice's Mirror, 10-1 Touch Silver, 12-1 Sovereign Niche, Al Haal, 20-1 others

2.25 RODGERS OF BRIXTON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 5f 110yds

1 3122-41 MR PLAYFULL (14) R Frost 6 11 5 ..J Frost
2 500626- AMBER SPARK (203) D Gandolfo 7 10 12 ..R Dunwoody
3 PP BELLS WOOD (39) A Dunn 7 10 12 ..L Harvey
4 62/6P28- BOLD ACRE (225) J M Bradley 6 10 12 ..T J Murphy
5 P0/648-U COUNTRY KEEPER (11) B Ryall 8 10 12 ..T Dascombe (3)
6 PADDY BURKE A Newcombe 6 10 12 ..A Thornton
7 22P/2FU- PUNTERS OVERHEAD (226) P Nicholls 8 10 12 ..A P McCoy
8 610000- PURBECK CAVALIER (219) R Alner 7 10 12 ..W McFarland
9 3/2333- SUPER COIN (197) R Lee 8 10 12 ..R Johnson
10 053/ VOSNE ROMANEE II (1,626) M Pipe 9 10 12 ..G Supple (7)
11 0/260/1- COLETTE'S CHOICE (356) G Ham 7 10 7 ..S Burrough
12 0- LOWER BITHAM (158) R Pocock 9 10 7 ..D J Kavanagh (5)
13 RAU3F-44 STORMY SUNSET (23) W Dennis 9 10 7 ..Mr T Dennis (7)
– 13 declared –

BETTING: 5-2 Super Coin, 3-1 Punters Overhead, 5-1 Mr Playfull, 7-1 Amber Spark, 8-1 Vosne Romanee II, 12-1 Purbeck Cavalier, 14-1 others

2.55 BARCLAYS BANK 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 6f

1 ALONE HOME C Mann 5 10 10 ..J Railton
2 ASHLEY HOUSE B R Millman 7 10 10 ..D Salter (5)
3 000- BID FOR TOOLS (228) A Newcombe 4 10 10 ..A Thornton
4 0/P053-4 JHAL FREZI (18) A Barrow 8 10 10 ..A Procter
5 44P320 MIRAMARE (20) C Popham 6 10 10 ..T Dascombe (3)
6 606 MORECEVA (77) Paddy Farrell 6 10 10 ..W Marston
7 3223- MR COTTON SOCKS (306) R Frost 6 10 10 ..J Frost
8 ONE FOR NAVIGATION P Nicholls 4 10 10 ..A P McCoy
9 0603/6-0 OTTER PRINCE (11) T George 7 10 10 ..R Johnson
10 200/ BLAKEWAY (1,322) G Ham 9 10 5 ..S Burrough
11 0P- MISS SECRET (350) C Mitchell 6 10 5 ..D Bridgwater
12 /4/4P3- RAINBOW FOUNTAIN (362) N Lampard 9 10 5 ..Chris Webb (5)
13 33/45- SEYMOURSWIFT (377) D Gandolfo 6 10 5 ..R Dunwoody
14 P- TOLCARNE LADY (230) K Bishop 7 10 5 ..L Harvey
– 14 declared –

BETTING: 7-2 Mr Cotton Socks, 4-1 Seymourswift, 9-2 One For Navigation, 6-1 Alone Home, 12-1 Rainbow Fountain, Jhal Frezi, 14-1 others

3.25 WILLIAM HILL TRIAL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 1f

1 511121- FROGMARCH (USA) (214) (CD) R Phillips 6 12 0 ..J Railton
2 10/0253- CADOUGOLD (FR) (310) M Pipe 5 11 7 ..A P McCoy
3 122423- MOUSE BIRD (197) (CD) D Gandolfo 6 10 12 ..R Dunwoody
4 340-4U2 MORSTOCK (4) R Hodges 6 10 8 ..T Dascombe (3)
5 033151- HOLDIMCLOSE (186) (C) R Frost 6 10 8 ..J Frost
6 P/FP5F-4 LACKENDARA (19) Miss H Knight 9 10 3 ..J Osborne
7 3/61105- WORLD EXPRESS (183) (D) B R Millman 6 10 0 ..D Salter (5)
– 7 declared –

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: World Express 9st 12lb.
BETTING: 11-4 Frogmarch, 3-1 Cadougold, 5-1 Mouse Bird, 6-1 Holdimclose, Lackendara, 8-1 Morstock, 10-1 World Express

3.55 STAMFORD BRIDGE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m 2f 110yds

1 6/22P4- BOND JNR (242) P Nicholls 7 12 0 ..A P McCoy
2 P/3U315- CHIEF RAGER (236) N Twiston-Davies 7 11 8 ..D Bridgwater
3 P5522UP- SCOTONI (289) R O'Sullivan 10 10 13 ..S Curran
4 11/1P/ TAPAGEUR (1,686) M Pipe 11 10 13 ..G Supple (7)
5 AU2444- SHAMARPHIL (195) (C) R Alner 10 10 11 ..Miss S Barraclough
6 U32335/- ROCKY PARK (574) G Balding 10 10 10 ..B Fenton
7 030524- STEEPLE JACK (231) K Bishop 9 10 3 ..S Burrough
– 7 declared –

BETTING: 5-2 Bond Jnr, 3-1 Chief Rager, 7-2 Tapageur, 7-1 Shamarphil, 8-1 Rocky Park, 10-1 Scotoni, Steeple Jack

4.25 HIGHBURY STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,550 added 2m 1f

1 113 ULTIMATE SMOOTHIE (47) (BF) M Pipe 4 12 0 ..G Bradley
2 0 ARCTIC CHANTER (151) B R Millman 4 11 4 ..D Salter (5)
3 5 CAPTAIN FELIX (NZ) (53) A Dunn 6 11 4 ..D J Kavanagh (5)
4 DEFENDTHEREALM R Frost 5 11 4 ..Mr A Holdsworth
5 DUKES CASTLE R Frost 5 11 4 ..J Frost
6 FIDDLER'S LEAP Miss H Knight 4 11 4 ..Mr A Wintle (7)
7 FRANKIE MUCK N Twiston-Davies 4 11 4 ..L Suthern (7)
8 3- IVORY COASTER (NZ) (246) B De Haan 5 11 4 ..J Osborne
9 P- KIND CLERIC (293) P Hobbs 5 11 4 ..A P McCoy
10 LORD FOLEY (NZ) C Mann 4 11 4 ..J Magee (3)
11 LUCKY CALL (NZ) A Hobbs 5 11 4 ..Mr G Shenkin (7)
12 MIDAS K Burke 5 11 4 ..R Dunwoody
13 00/ MINGAY (592) Graham Richards 5 11 4 ..Mr M McGrath (7)
14 MORRAY'S MILLION J Smith 4 11 4 ..T J Murphy
15 TAIN TON N Twiston-Davies 4 11 4 ..M Keighley (7)
16 8- ZAGGY LANE (226) Mrs R Henderson 4 11 4 ..B Fenton
– 16 declared –

BETTING: 5-2 Ultimate Smoothie, 4-1 Frankie Muck, 5-1 Fiddler's Leap, 6-1 Ivory Coaster, 8-1 Tain Ton, 10-1 Lord Foley, 14-1 others

KEMPTON

HYPERION

1.35 Quaff
2.05 Castle Chief (nb)
2.35 Indian Jockey
3.05 Master Orchestra
3.35 Fine Thyne
4.05 JADIDH (nap)

GOING: Good.
■ Right-hand course. Practically flat. Run-in of 200yd.
■ Course is on A308 at Sunbury. Kempton Park railway station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club & Tattersalls £10 (16 to 25-year-olds £8); Silver Ring £5. Accompanied children under-16 free. CAR PARK: Members £5 (limited and must be pre-booked), rest free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: D Nicholson — 15 winners from 56 runners gives a success ratio of 26.8% and a loss to a £1 level stake of £1.26; N Henderson — 12 winners, 69 runners, 17.4%, -£0.40. K Bailey — 11 winners, 49 runners, 22.4%, -£0.18; M Pipe — 11 winners, 53 runners, 20.8%, +£14.38.
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: J Osborne — 23 winners, 106 rides, 21.7%, +£11.06; R Dunwoody — 20 winners, 104 rides, 19.2%, -£31.89; A Maguire — 15 winners, 74 rides, 20.3%, -£5.70; M A Fitzgerald — 15 winners, 82 rides, 18.3%, +£1.41.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Certain Angle (3.05) & Greenback (3.35) have been sent 155 miles by P Hobbs from Bilbrook, Somerset; Indian Jockey (2.35) & Shahrani (4.05) sent 153 miles by M Pipe from Nicholashayne, Devon.

1.35 USM BOWL (NOVICE HURDLE) (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £2,360

1 0- CHECKS AND STRIPES (268) (David Knox) C Weedon 5 10 10 ..M Richards
2 D- DEXTRA (264) (Dexta Lighting Systems) S Earle 6 10 10 ..J Lawrence
3 /0/3322- DOMINOS RING (258) (Mrs Jacky Carrington) Mrs H Watson 7 10 10 ..Mr A Watson
4 FAST FORWARD FRED (G R H Pickard & Partners) L Montague Hall 5 10 10 ..D Morris
5 056P- KRATON GARDEN (USA) (208) (C M Wilson) T Casey 4 10 10 ..E Murphy
6 0240- MILLERSFORD (203) (Mrs Derek Fletcher) N Gaselee 5 10 10 ..J R Kavanagh
7 MOUNTAIN PATH (Anthony Speelman) N Henderson 6 10 10 ..M A Fitzgerald
8 30- QUAFF (298) (A D Weller) J Gifford 6 10 10 ..P Hide
9 0613- SPRING DOUBLE (168) (Mrs Lorna Berryman) N Twiston-Davies 5 10 10 ..C Llewellyn
10 0P0-44 ZUNO FLYER (USA) (15) (The Ex-Shopmates Partnership) A Moore 4 10 10 ..B Powell
11 0-5 QUARE DREAM'S (10) (B & M McHugh Ltd Civil Engineering) T Casey 5 10 5 ..C O'Dwyer
12 /3003RV WINNOW (522) (H Stephen Smith) A Turnell 6 10 5 ..C Rae (7)
– 12 declared –

BETTING: 5-2 Spring Double, 9-2 Quaff, 5-1 Dominos Ring, 6-1 Millersford, 7-1 Mountain Path, 10-1 Winnow, 11-1 Quare Dream's, 12-1 Fast Forward Fred, 16-1 others
1995: Wisley Wonder 5 10 10 C Maude 7-4 (N Twiston-Davies) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE

This does not look particularly competitive and **SPRING DOUBLE**, representing Nigel Twiston-Davies, who sent out Wisley Wonder to win this a year ago, should prove good enough to make a successful debut over hurdles. The five-year-old opened his account in a bumper at Uttoxeter in May with a game three-quarter-length win from Loch Na Keal and went on to be third to Friendship under a penalty. Good ground seems to suit. **Millersford**, runner-up in a Nottingham bumper in February, ran well over hurdles in big fields at Wincanton and Cheltenham and will be suited by this trip, but the run is likely to be needed. **Dominos Ring** reached the frame all four starts last season, winding up with a short-head defeat by Barford Sovereign at Huntingdon, but he does not look easy to win with. **Fast Forward Fred**, only modest on the Flat, should be suited by this trip and can be considered, along with Nicky Henderson's newcomer **Mountain Path** and **Quaff**, who reached the frame on his debut here last November when third to Exterior Profiles. **Selection:** SPRING DOUBLE.

2.05 JOHNSONS INTERNATIONAL NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 3m Penalty Value £3,518

1 52411F- BARONET (201) (Mrs David Thompson) D Nicholson 6 11 0 ..A Maguire
2 /444P/4 CASTLE CHIEF (10) (BF) (Julian Clopet) J Gifford 7 11 0 ..P Hide
3 /5331/ GLENTOWER (976) (Brewers Arms Racing Club) C Popham 8 11 0 ..M A Fitzgerald
4 22122/ OUROWNFELLOW (817) (Kings Of The Road Partnership) R Curtis 7 11 0 ..D Morris
5 4/P/P52- PARLIAMENTARIAN (184) (J G M Weiss) T Casey 7 11 0 ..C O'Dwyer
– 5 declared –

BETTING: 5-4 Baronet, 5-2 Castle Chief, 9-2 Ourownfellow, 6-1 Glentower, 10-1 Parliamentarian
1995: Rex To The Rescue 7 11 0 S McNeill 20-1 (R Alner) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE

BARONET was always destined to be a chaser and wins in staying novice hurdles at Nottingham and Towcester last season were a bonus. The Roselier gelding has shown form both on a fast surface and with give underfoot and, while he will be suited by a greater test of stamina than this easy three miles, should prove too good for these rivals. **Castle Chief**, a good fourth to King Lucifer (stablemate to my selection) at Ascot in January 1995, has the advantage of a recent run. Having missed all last season, he badly needed the outing when a well-beaten fourth to Mill O'The Rags at Huntingdon and will win races in due course. **Glentower** and **Ourownfellow** showed similarly useful form in novice hurdles in the 1993-94 season but are best watched after more than two and a half years off, while it will be a surprise if **Parliamentarian**, beaten ten lengths by Pond House at Fontwell last season, is good enough. **Selection:** BARONET.

2.35 MIRROR SELECT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,234

1 2121-11 INDIAN JOCKEY (15) (D) (Stuart M Mercer) M Pipe 4 11 13 ..D Walsh
2 222215 PAIR OF JACKS (4) (D) (D A Wilson) G L Moore 6 11 7 ..D Fortt
3 6443-45 NIGHT IN A MILLION (7) (Leith Hill Chasers) S Woodman 5 11 1 ..K Gaule
4 5 ADILOV (61) (Trevor Machell) J Bridger 4 10 7 ..Sophie Mitchell
5 3-53510 LAST LAUGH (13) (Charles Eden Limited) K Bailey 4 10 4 ..W Walsh (5)
– 5 declared –

BETTING: 1-3 Indian Jockey, 5-1 Pair Of Jacks, 9-1 Last Laugh, 12-1 Night In A Million, 50-1 Adilov
1995: Nordic Valley 4 10 13 O Burrows 11-10 (M Pipe) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE

INDIAN JOCKEY struggled to justify odds of 7-1 on at Warwick last time, holding Highly Charming by a short head having made all the running. The runner-up did not do a lot for the form when a well-beaten fourth in a novice hurdle at the same course yesterday, but Indian Jockey had looked good beating Safety in a handicap hurdle at Taunton early last month and Martin Pipe's four-year-old, whose front-running will be well suited to this course, can win again provided the ground does not become testing. **Last Laugh** is the obvious alternative in receipt of 23lb although she would be getting another 11lb in a handicap. Juni Bean's filly beat Dragonmist a short-head at Exeter last month in a mares' novice handicap but flopped behind Pegasus Bay at Ludlow subsequently. **Pair Of Jacks** has little chance with Indian Jockey judged on handicap ratings, but he was not far behind Glowing Path at Warwick on Saturday having won twice and been second on four occasions in his previous six runs and should certainly reach the frame again. **Selection:** INDIAN JOCKEY

3.05 SPORTING LIFE TROPHY (HANDICAP CHASE) (CLASS D) £5,100 added 3m Penalty Value £3,501

1 21-1?2 CERTAIN ANGLE (18) (D) The Pinhorn Syndicate P Hobbs 7 11 10 ..A Maguire
2 P2F11? MASTER ORCHESTRA (270) (D) The Hatchet Partnership Miss H Knight 7 11 7 ..J F Titley
3 133-679 PAPER STAR (15) Gaiety Racing M Muggeridge 9 11 ? ..B Powell
4 E1104-4 SORBIERE (10) Mrs R A Proctor N Henderson 9 11 4 ..M A Fitzgerald
5 P46-3 5 NEVADA GOLD (18) (D) F Yardley 10 11 4 ..P McLoughlin
6 5-22112 DRUMCULLEN (20) (D) (BF) Martyn Booth K Bailey 7 11 0 ..C O'Dwyer
7 231 100 FUNCHEON GALE (119) (BF) Kings Of The Road Partnership P Curtis 9 10 10 ..D Morris
– 7 declared –

BETTING: 9-4 Master Orchestra, 11-4 Certain Angle, 9-2 Drumcullen, 7-1 Nevada Gold, 8-1 Paper Star, 10-1 Sorbiere, 12-1 Funcheon Gale.
1995: Gala Vale 6 10 3 W Marston 2-1 (Mrs J Pitman) 7 ran

FORM GUIDE

MASTER ORCHESTRA, a winning pointer in Ireland, very much needed his reappearance and first run for Henrietta Knight at Bangor last season, so it was a fine effort to run the smart Addington Boy to three lengths, although the margin of defeat flatters him. Possibly unlucky when falling at Exeter next time, Master Orchestra won his next two at Huntingdon and Leicester before being pulled up at Newbury in February in the race won by River Lossie, with **Sorbiere** also failing to complete. There is every chance that Master Orchestra will need this run but he still looks to have a good chance of making a winning reappearance. Sorbiere went on to win twice at Folkestone after Newbury. Those were only weak races and Master Orchestra meets him 9lb better than when they met, but Sorbiere does at least have the benefit of a recent run (last of four to Merlins Dream at Huntingdon) and is re-equipped with blinkers today. **Drumcullen** benefited from the misfortunes of others when following his Huntingdon win with an easy success at Wincanton last month. He went unpenalised at Taunton subsequently but found The Blue Boy two lengths too good and is 8lb higher now. **Certain Angle**, just a pound higher than when beating Lemon's Mill a head at Uttoxeter in June, found life tough against Larry's Lord and Garrylough at Stratford last time but must be feared in this company. **Funcheon Gale** lacks a run since July, while **Nevada Gold** seems past his best and **Paper Star's** wins have all been at Plumpton. **Selection:** MASTER ORCHESTRA.

3.35 ACE CUP (NOVICE CHASE) (CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,550

1 40/0/12 FINE THYNE (11) (Peter Wiegand) G Harwood 7 11 0 ..M A Fitzgerald
2 0P03- KEY TO MOYADE (200) (Mrs Leonie Harper) M Wilkinson 6 11 0 ..J Lawrence
3 333/43- MR JERVIS (277) (Felix Rosenstiel's Widow & Son) J Gifford 7 11 0 ..P Hide
4 4U61F0- MYSTIC ISLE (231) (Mrs J A Newton) N Gaselee 6 11 0 ..C Llewellyn
5 15106-5 NORDANSK (18) (J Smith) M Madgwick 7 11 0 ..D Morris
6 013FP/ SUNSET AND VINE (848) (Colin Frewin) T Casey 9 11 0 ..C O'Dwyer
7 00U- THE WAYWARD BISHOP (197) (Mrs L Taylor) Mrs L Taylor 7 11 0 ..J R Kavanagh
8 052300- WIXOE WONDER (239) (P J D Pottinger) M Bradstock 6 11 0 ..P Holley
9 100123 GREENBACK (BEL) (18) (Jack Joseph) P Hobbs 5 10 13 ..A Maguire
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 7-4 Fine Thyne, 4-1 Mr Jervis, 5-1 Sunset And Vine, 6-1 Mystic Isle, 7-1 Greenback, 10-1 Key To Moyade, 12-1 others
1995: Ever Flow 6 11 3 E Murphy 10-11 (T Casey) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE

FINE THYNE, lightly raced and useful over hurdles, is difficult to oppose after running smart Call Equiname, an impressive winner at Chepstow previously, to a length and a half on his chasing debut at Worcester recently. He had returned from a long absence to win over hurdles at Stratford in September and is clearly in good heart. **Greenback** was no match for Land Afar and Amancio (stablemate to my selection) here last time after running Celibate close on his return from a lengthy absence, also at this course. **Nordansk** was let down by his jumping in Land Afar's race, a blunder five fences out finally ending his chance, and improvement in that department could see him pose a threat to Fine Thyne. **Mystic Isle**, winner of a maiden hurdle at Windsor in January, is likely to need a longer trip and lacks a recent run. **Sunset And Vine**, a useful handicap hurdler, has not been out since being pulled up at Ascot in April 1994. **Selection:** FINE THYNE.

4.05 FIESTA MAGAZINE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £3,436

1 1P2P3P- DARK HONEY (239) (CD) (Roger Sayer) S Dow 11 12 0 ..A Dicken
2 P22236- OCEAN HAWK (256) (M Archer & Miss J Broadhurst) N Twiston-Davies 4 11 11 ..C Llewellyn
3 3/106-41 OLYMPIAN (11) (D) (J Neville) J Neville 9 11 2 ..A Maguire
4 2/31120 FIELDRIDGE (12) (The Crunkleston Partnership) M Muggeridge 7 10 13 ..B Powell
5 111111 SHAHRANI (21) (A S Helassi and Mr S Helassi) M Pipe 4 10 10 ..D Walsh (3)
6 3-11515 WOTTASHAMBLES (11) (Dream On Racing Partnership) L Montague Hall 5 10 9 ..D Morris
7 6/FBFP 3 GIVUS A CALL (18) (T Benfield and Mr W Brown) J Gifford 6 10 7 ..P Hide
8 306242- JADIDH (158) (Don Hazzard) A Barrow 8 10 5 ..P Holley
9 313463- HARDING (200) (S P Tindall) S Mellor 5 10 0 ..N Mann
– 9 declared –

BETTING: 7-2 Shahrani, 4-1 Ocean Hawk, 9-2 Olympian, 5-1 Harding, 6-1 Givus A Call, 7-1 Jadidh, 10-1 Dark Honey, Wottashambles, 12-1 Fieldridge.
1995: Wee Wind 6 10 8 P Hide 10-1 (J Gifford) 10 ran

FORM GUIDE

HARDING returns to hurdling on a fair mark – 3lb lower than when slamming Jimmy's Cross (winner next time) 12 lengths at Newbury in March and a pound lower than when placed behind Landed Gentry at Ascot and Erckule here in big fields. He failed to win in four starts after Newbury, but there was definite promise in his recent Flat run at Ascot and this sharp course suits him well. **Shahrani** is unbeaten from five starts over hurdles and continued his winning run when making all at odds on in a charity race at Exeter last time, but he faces his stiffest task yet over timber. **Ocean Hawk**, a smart juvenile hurdler last season, winning at Ascot and Leicester is one for the short list even with a big weight on this reappearance. **Olympian** was in the mood at Market Rasen when beating San Giorgio three lengths and could well follow up, while **Wottashambles**, successful three times already over hurdles this season, has been dropped 3lb for his Worcester defeat behind Teen Jay despite being beaten under eight lengths. **Dark Honey** enjoyed some success novice chasing last season and is likely to benefit from this return, but **Fieldridge** seemed to have his limitations exposed at Newbury last time. **Givus A Call** will at least strip fitter for his return behind Fred Earth here when facing a stiff task at the weights, while further rain would aid **Jadidh's** chance. **Selection:** HARDING.

RACING RESULTS

EXETER

1.15: 1. IT'S A GEM (L Aspell) 50-1; **2. Devon Peasant** 9-1; **3. Lake Kariba** 2-1 fav. 16 ran. ½, 4. (J Gifford, Findon). Tote: £108.60; £15.60, £2.20, £1.40. Dual Forecast: £499.70. Computer Straight Forecast: £410.19. Trio: £256.60 (pool of £253.02 to Newton Abbot 2.25 today). Non Runner: Dantes Cavalier.

1.45: 1. STONE ISLAND (R Dunwoody) 11-2; **2. Bryanston Square** 9-1; **3. Flash In The Pan** 10-1. 9 ran. 6-4 fav Home Cookin' (4th). ½, 1. (P Hobbs, Minehead). Tote: £7.70; £2.10, £3.60, £1.50. DF: £9.40. CSF: £46.94. Trio: £46.50.

2.15: 1. ABSALOM'S LADY (D Bridgwater) 8-1; **2. Coulton** 13-8 fav; **3. Pimberley Place** 66-1. 6 ran. 2½, 1¼. (Miss Gay Kelleway, Whitcombe). Tote: £6.60; £2.10, £1.10. DF: £5.50. CSF: £20.55.

2.45: 1. ALLOW (M A Fitzgerald) 9-2; **2. Million Dancer** 10-1; **3. Cracking Prospect** 20-1. 13 ran. 7-2 fav Luke Warm (4th). 7, 6. (B Llewellyn, Bargoed). Tote: £5.60; £1.70, £3.10, £5.80. DF: £27.70. CSF: £45.86. Tricast: £758.60. Trio: £202.90 (pool of £80.03 to Newton Abbot 2.25 today).

3.15: 1. FOOLS ERRAND (A P McCoy) 5-1; **2. Class Of Ninetytwo** 7-2; **3. Dom Samourai** 11-1. 7 ran. 9-4 fav Oats Regent (4th). 7, 2½. (G Balding, Fyfield). Tote: £4.60; £1.70, £2.40. DF: £5.40. CSF: £21.19.

3.45: 1. SAIL BY THE STARS (R Dunwoody) 6-1; **2. Dark Nightingale** 13-8 fav; **3. Mariners Mirror** 7-1. 7 ran. 5, 11. (Capt T Forster, Downton). Tote: £6.40; £4.30, £2.10. DF: £8.90. CSF: £15.73.

4.15: 1. CURRADUFF MOLL (L Suthern) 14-1; **2. Potter's Gale** evens fav; **3. Just Jasmine** 20-1. 14 ran. 1½, 3½. (N Twiston-Davies, Cheltenham). Tote: £15.50; £3.20, £1.10, £5.70. DF: £11.10. CSF: £28.48. Trio: £137.50.

Placepot: £319.60. **Quadpot:** £38.20. **Place 6:** £211.35. **Place 5:** £84.71.

REDCAR

1.35: 1. EPIC STAND (F Lynch) 8-1; **2. Double Espresso** 5-2 fav; **3. Castles Burning** 10-1. 18 ran. 1, 1¼. (Mrs J Ramsden, Thirsk). Tote: £8.60; £2.60, £1.10, £2.10, £2.40. DF: £36.20. CSF: £31.22. Tricast: £206.69. Trio: £199.80.

2.05: 1. TAYSEER (W Ryan) 4-1; **2. Fly To The Stars** 3-1 fav; **3. Russian Ruler** 10-1. 18 ran. 1, 2. (E Dunlop, Newmarket). Tote: £4.80; £1.80, £1.60, £3.10. DF: £13.40. CSF: £16.94. Trio: £35.00. NR: Norne.

2.35: 1. RENZO (A Clark) 14-1; **2. Traceability** 10-1; **3. Enriched** 7-4 fav. 10 ran. nk, hd. (G Harwood, Pulborough). Tote: £11.00; £2.70, £2.50, £1.20. DF: £49.90. CSF: £131.33. Tricast: £334.83. Trio: £30.70. After a stewards' inquiry, Blurred, who was first past the post, was disqualified and placed fourth.

3.05: 1. ASKERN (A Clark) 16-1; **2. Shafflshayes** 11-2; **3. Rex Mundi** 8-1. **4. Calder King** 20-1. 17 ran. 9-2 fav Fern's Governor. hd, nk. (D Haydn Jones, Pontypridd). Tote: £26.10; £4.10, £2.00, £1.80, £4.40. DF: £79.10. CSF: £103.87. Tricast: £727.90. Trio: £442.10 (pool of £137.02 to Newton Abbot 2.25 today).

3.35: 1. CRETAN GIFT (T G McLaughlin) 14-1; **2. Tiler** 16-1; **3. Dawwe** 12-1; **4. Saint Express** 10-1. 25 ran. 7-1 fav Palo Blanco (6th). sht-hd, ½. (N Littmoden, Wolverhampton). Tote: £29.10; £4.40, £3.40. £4.70, £2.70. DF: £260.60. CSF: £230.48. Tricast: £2,613.78. Trio: £1,752.50 (pool of £1,777.23 to Newton Abbot 2.25 today). NR: Palacegate Touch.

4.05: 1. PALACEGATE JACK (J Carroll) 8-1; **2. Friendly Brave** 10-1; **3. Splicing** 3-1 fav. 8 ran. nk, ¾. (C Dwyer, Newmarket). Tote: £9.40; £3.00, £2.50, £2.10. DF: £37.60. CSF: £76.43.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £26,175.27 carried forward to Newton Abbot today).
Placepot: £247.00. **Quadpot:** £77.40.
Place 6: £334.61. **Place 5:** £160.84.

WARWICK

1.20: 1. CHICKAWICKA (G Bradley) 7-4 fav; **2. Above The Cut** 33-1; **3. Smart Lord** 25-1. 15 ran. 7, 6. (B Palling). Tote: £2.80; £1.80, £6.10, £2.00. DF: £59.60. CSF: £54.98. Trio: £188.20 (pool of £209.86 to Newton Abbot 2.25 today). NR: Hay Dance.

1.55: 1. BRAZIL OR BUST (M Dwyer) 5-2; **2. Slingsby** 9-4 fav; **3. Signe Run** 5-1. 8 ran. nk, 19. (P Webber). Tote: £4.40; £1.40, £1.20, £1.70. DF: £7.80. CSF: £9.04. Trio: £29.10. Non Runner: Amancio.

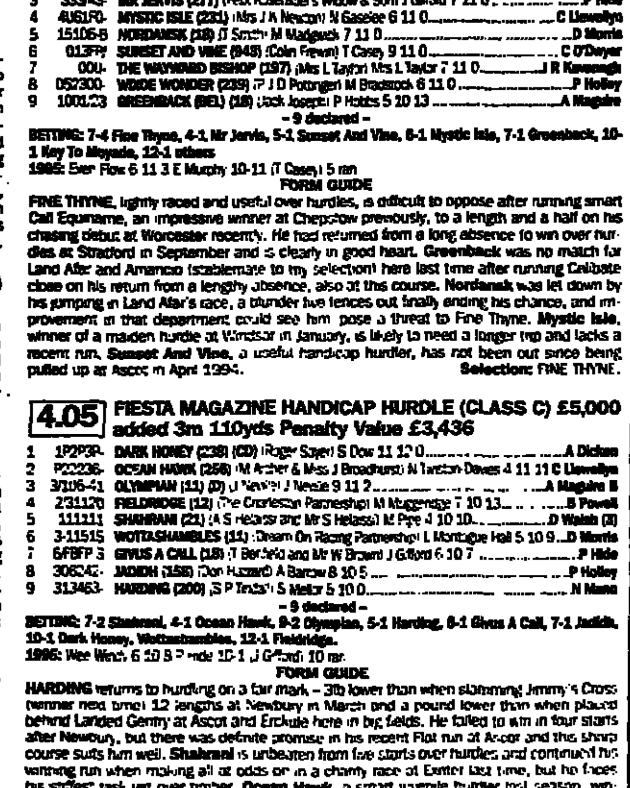
2.25: 1. ROSEHALL (G Hogan) 33-1; **2. Wanstead** 4-1; **3. Cuirain** 7-2. 9 ran. 7-4 fav Dacelo. nk, 2. (Mrs T Pilkington). Tote: £87.50; £21.40, £1.90, £1.50. DF: £174.70. CSF: £155.18. Trio: £77.90.

2.55: 1. DESERT FORCE (G Bradley) 11-4 fav; **2. Coss Ruair** 9-2; **3. Hullo Mary Doll** 9-2. 7 ran. 6, 3. (A Streeter). Tote: £3.90; £2.00, £3.10. Dual Forecast: £12.00. CSF: £16.09.

3.25: 1. DRUMSTICK (C O'Dwyer) 5-4. 2 ran. 4-7 fav Man Mood (pulled up). (K Bailey). Tote: £1.90. Non Runner: Mine's An Ace

3.55: 1. PORTSCATHO (S Curran) 10-3; **2. Red Light** 5-1; **3. Mr Poppleton** 4-1. 6 ran. 9-4 fav Alpine Mist. nk, 11. (A Jones). Tote: £4.20; £3.10, £2.10. Dual Forecast: £13.60. CSF: £19.18. Non Runner: Faines Farewell.

Placepot: £380.00. **Quadpot:** £67.80. **Place 6:** £180.88 **Place 5:** £69.55.



FOOTBALL: The Manchester United manager today celebrates a decade in charge at Old Trafford. **Glenn Moore** spoke to him

Ferguson focused on the next 10 years

Of all the barbed and mocking comments that have been directed towards Manchester United these last few weeks, one would have angered their manager most.

"He's gone on too long, he's like Maggie Thatcher," was one caller's contribution to a radio phone-in. Fortunately for the speaker's safety he was not within reach of Alex Ferguson at the time. The sentiment was bad enough, the comparison would have produced an explosion worthy of last night's firework displays.

"Don't compare me with *that* woman," he once scolded a reporter who had noted that, like Thatcher, he needed only a few hours' sleep. Ferguson's socialism runs deep. His recent appearance with Tony Blair at the Labour Party Conference was not a stunt – not for Ferguson anyway.

Even so, it was impossible not to think of Maggie when Ferguson said, when we met a few days ago, that "I can take another 10 years. I have no thoughts of retiring". Remember Thatcher proclaiming, upon her 10th anniversary: "I shall go on, and on, *and on*"? Within a year she was out. Could the same fate befall Ferguson, who today celebrates 10 years at the helm at Old Trafford? The widespread joy at United's recent slump would suggest he divides the country just as much as she did.

The reaction bemuses Ferguson. "Why do people hate us?" he said. "They never hated Liverpool. Last Monday morning I was listening to the news on Five Live and the guy says: 'What a weekend I had. I nearly crashed my car in delight when I heard the news – United losing six goals. Brilliant.'

"I laughed at it. Then I thought: 'What kind of message is that from the BBC news? It's right to hate United?'. . Kids could be listening."

Ferguson then conceded that the omnipresence of Manchester United plc "has something to do with it". "We're a threat to the nation," he added with sudden relish. "Public enemy No 1. Next there'll be posters of Kitchener saying 'Your Country Needs You To Rid England Of Manchester United'."

It was typical Ferguson, in turn defensive, reflective, passionate and humorous. It is, after the initial mutual wariness is conquered, an engaging mix, and the element which normally comes out on top is passion.

That emotion is channelled in two directions – football and winning. As a player it lifted an average talent to two seasons playing centre-forward with his boyhood heroes, Rangers. In that time he was sent off seven times – "an injustice every one of them" – but was still top scorer.

In management it has driven him to create two teams which have achieved success without sacrificing style. He spent eight years at Aberdeen, by far the most successful in their history. Then, in November 1986, Martin Edwards, the United chairman, contacted him. Nottingham Forest were top. Newcastle were bottom and that weekend's North-east derby was in the Third Division, where Middlesbrough were playing Darlington. More to the point, United were 20th.

"I could not see myself being here a decade," Ferguson said. "I did not think I would ever spend as long again at one club. My job when coming here was to win the League, that was my priority. I could not understand how United had gone so long – it was the 20th year – not winning it. I remember telling the press: 'I don't want it to go to 25 years'... I regretted saying that five years later."

By then, however, the recovery was on the way. But in 1989 it had looked as if Ferguson was not the man for the job. Having finished 11th the previous season, Ferguson had signed five players including Paul Ince and Gary Pallister, then lost 5-1 at Manchester City.

> '"How," a reporter asked, "did Fergie feel?" "Pass me the rope" is how I felt. "Wonderful" is what I said'

The low point was a December home defeat by Crystal Palace, who had earlier lost 9-0 at Anfield. Ferguson had dropped Hughes and the crowd, for the first time, had turned against him.

As he drove away from Old Trafford, Darren, his son, suggested he quit. When they got home the telephone rang – United had been drawn away to Forest in the FA Cup third round. "How," a reporter wanted to know, "did Fergie feel?".

"'Pass me the rope' is what I thought, 'wonderful' is what I said," Ferguson said. "I had begun to analyse myself. I thought: 'My team selection's good, my training and preparation's right, motivation fine, handling the press OK.' Yet we went eight matches without winning.

"I was not going out at night time. I was too depressed. At weekends, Archie [Knox, his then assistant] and Kiddo [Brian Kidd, then youth coach, now assistant] would say 'Come out'. I'd say no. I was doing a bit of trench-digging."

United went on to beat Forest and, five months later, Crystal Palace at Wembley. Ferguson was on his way. "Winning the Cup showed me exactly what was wrong with this club. The way the atmosphere built up as each round came along – the success was based on cup runs. The supporters were waiting for them rather than League wins. Now they get involved in League games.

"There is a different atmosphere now. There was a frustrated atmosphere when I first came, a 'they've lost the League again' thing. Now there is expectation."

Too much, one might feel. Yesterday, Five Live's morning phone-in was devoted to "Manchester United's crisis". On *Six-O-Six* a woman complained she had not bought an Old Trafford season ticket to see United lose.

To be fair, few long-standing United fans believe Ferguson has outstayed his welcome. They look at the youth system, the new training facility at The Cliff, the way all the first team, bar Eric Cantona, have signed contracts into the next century.

"What has happened in the last weeks is why you have 10 years here," Ferguson said. "You prepare to ensure you recover from that."

Ferguson's longevity is remarkable. Joe Kinnear, at four years eight months, is the next longest serving Premiership manager. Only Dario Gradi (Crewe) and John Rudge (Port Vale) exceed his tenure outside the Premiership. "To be successful you have to understand you cannot be everybody's cup of tea. You can only pick 11 players. I don't enjoy that bit but I never let it worry me. You're doing it for the team."

That strength of mind saw him leave Bryan Robson out of the 1994 FA Cup final, omit Steve Bruce for last May's final, and, hardest of all, Jim Leighton from the 1990 final replay.

Ferguson says the decison whether to keep Eric Cantona – "I could not see him surviving here" – was the hardest, but the way he talks about Leighton betrays him. Leighton had been his keeper at Aberdeen; Ferguson had brought him down to Old Trafford.

Ask him about that decision and there is a long pause, a very long pause. Then he says: "It really crushed Jim. It's still going on. Jim took it badly, but it was the right decision. Yet, if I knew then the way it would affect Jim I don't think I would make the same decision. It was the right football decision but it wrecked his career and cost him two years of his footballing life. The easy decision was to play him, the hard decision won us the Cup."

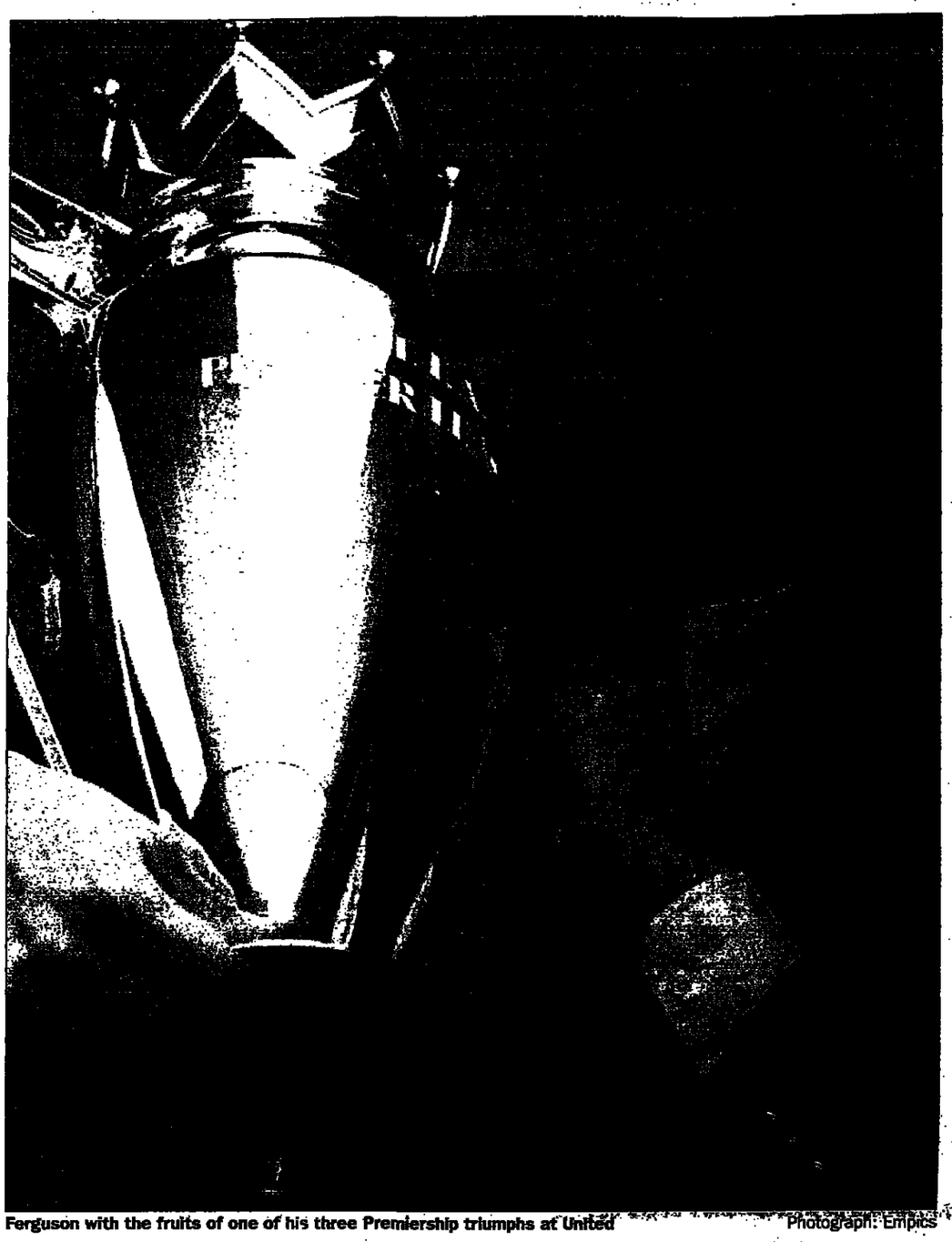
It was a salutary lesson. Ferguson is a father figure to United's young players, but he keeps his distance. "You have to be close, but not too close. I have a game of cards on the bus, I enjoy that, a bit of laughter, but I never go out for a meal. The one time we did it we lost the League. We had three games in six days and I decided to take them all for an Italian. We lost them all. It must have been the pasta."

We have been talking in the privacy of the directors' room at Old Trafford. It is all soft upholstery and deep pile carpet. There is a discreet bar and an impressive honours board. Among the plaques and scroll is an incongruous one, from Uefa, congratulating United on their "contribution" to the success of the 1994-95 Champions' League. You may recall their "contribution" ended in failure at the hands of Barcelona, Gothenburg and Galatasaray.

Europe brought Maggie down; it may yet do the same for Fergie. Equally it could lift him that last rung in the pantheon of great managers, up there with Sir Matt Busby.

He may not be team manager when it happens but he will be at Old Trafford, probably alongside Kidd or Robson as a more hands-on director of football than Kenny Dalglish ever was. Ferguson does not envisage retirement. "That's the problem with this country," he says. "People have to retire at 65. That should be against the law."

An epitaph? "People who know their football have admired what we've done. Even Liverpool supporters recognise we have tried to do it the right way. We have played good football."



Ferguson with the fruits of one of his three Premiership triumphs at United — Photograph: Empics

OLD TRAFFORD'S NEW ERA

MANCHESTER UNITED'S FULL RECORD UNDER FERGUSON

Season	League	FA Cup	League Cup	Europe
1986-87	11	R4	R3	–
1987-88	2	R5	R5	–
1988-89	11	R6	R3	–
1989-90	13	W	R3	–
1990-91	6	R4	RU	CWC – W
1991-92	2	R4	W	CWC – R2
1992-93	1	R5	R3	UEFA – R1
1993-94	1	W	RU	EC – R2
1994-95	2	RU	R3	CL – Grp
1995-96	1	W	R2	UEFA – R1
1996-97	6	–	In R4	CL – In Grp

KEY – CL: European Cup Champions' League. CWC: European Cup-Winners' Cup. EC: European Cup. R4 etc: Fourth round. RU: Runner-up. UEFA: Uefa Cup. W: Winner.

[illegible] SIDE AND WHERE THEY WENT

[illegible], Saturday 8 November, 1986. Lost 2-0.

1 Turner	Sheff Wed	£175,000	1988
2 Duxbury	Blackburn	Free	1990
3 Albiston	West Brom	Free	1988
4 Moran	Sporting Gijon	Free	1987
5 McGrath	Aston Villa	£450,000	1989
6 Hogg	Portsmouth	£150,000	1988
7 Blackmore	Middlesbrough	Free	1994
8 Moses	retired		1988
9 Stapleton	Ajax	£150,000	1987
10 Davenport	Middlesboro	£750,000	1988
11 Barnes	Manchester City	£50,000	1987

MAJOR TRANSFERS IN
(over £170,000)

Player	From	£
1987		
Anderson	Arsenal	250,000
McClair	Celtic	850,000
Bruce	Norwich	800,000
1988		
Sharpe	Torquay	180,000
Leighton	Aberdeen	450,000
Pallister	Middlesbro	2,300,000
Gillespie	Luton	650,000
Hughes	Barcelona	1,800,000
Milne	Bristol (C)	170,000
1989		
Phelan	Norwich	750,000
Ince	West Ham	2,000,000
Webster	Southampton	1,200,000
Webb	Nottm Forest	1,500,000
1990		
Irwin	Oldham	650,000
Parker	QPR	2,000,000
Kanchelskis	Donetsk	650,000
Schmeichel	Brondby	550,000
1992		
Dublin	Cambridge	1,000,000
Cantona	Leeds Utd	1,200,000
1993		
Keane	Nottm Forest	3,750,000
1994		
May	Blackburn	1,400,000
1995		
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible] City	506,000
[illegible]	[illegible]	2,500,000
[illegible]	[illegible]	1,200,000
[illegible]	[illegible] Hotspur	3,600,000
[illegible]	[illegible]	200,000

MAJOR TRANSFERS OUT

1987		
Stevenson	St Etienne	227,000
1988		
T Gibson	Wimbledon	200,000
Turner	Sheff Wed	175,000
Olsen	Bordeaux	375,000
Davenport	Middlesbro	750,000
O'Brien	Newcastle	275,000
1989		
Strachan	Leeds Utd	300,000
Whiteside	Everton	750,000
McGrath	Aston Villa	450,000
1992		
Robins	Norwich	800,000
Webb	Nottm Forest	800,000
1993		
Leighton	Dundee	200,000
Clarke	Leicester	250,000
Wallace	Birmingham	250,000
1994		
Ferguson	Wolves	250,000
Martin	Celtic	500,000
Dublin	Coventry	1,950,000
1995		
Gillespie	Newcastle	1,000,000
Kanchelskis	Everton	5,500,000
Walsh	Middlesbro	250,000
Ince	Inter Milan	7,000,000
Hughes	Chelsea	1,500,000
1996		
Cotton	Sunderland	350,000
Sharpe	Leeds Utd	4,500,000

THEN AND NOW

	1986	1996
Turnover	£6.6m	£53m
Number of staff	114	296
Executive Wages	£2.5m	£13.4m*
Avg Attendance	46,322	54,895†
Members	42,000	145,000
Cost of Notice bk	£26.99	£70.00

* 1995 figures
† after six League games in 1996-97
Membership scheme started in 1987 – and is now fully subscribed.

Kevin Grogan

. . . as his predecessor is unexpectedly 'promoted'

Phil Shaw reviews the colourful career of Ron Atkinson, an old style manager

"It's bloody tough being a legend," Ron Atkinson decreed during his reign as manager of Manchester United. Amid a welter of one-liners which sustained many a scribe for the best part of two decades, its blend of swagger and self-mockery made it the quintessential "Big Ron" quip.

With his sharp wit, garish dress sense and liking for champagne, Atkinson seemed easy to pigeonhole as a kind of sporting spiv, a Medallion Man among managers. Yet invariably when he uttered such quotes, the tongue was so firmly in cheek that it was practically poking through.

Moreover, as one who covers Midlands football, this reporter's mental image of Atkinson is not of dripping jewellery or Armani suits. It is of him wrapped in a towel after one of the five-a-side games he would not conclude until his team were winning, tearing into a chicken lunch while doing what he likes best: chewing the fat about football.

The discrepancy between the popular image and the more serious side of his personality has led Gordon Strachan, who now succeeds him as manager of Coventry, to describe Atkinson as "the most misunderstood man in football". That may be stretching the point, for there is no doubt that he cut an opulent figure, even if he was never the one-dimensional character some portrayed him as.

Strachan also hailed his mentor as "the last of the character managers". However unfair that may be on Jim Smith, Dave Bassett, Joe Kinnear et al, Atkinson's "promotion" to director of football means the profession is diminished much as it was after Shankly, Clough, Docherty, Allison and Waddington named their last side.

It was 22 years ago this month that this one-time wing-half with Oxford United took charge of Fourth Division Cambridge. They were on their way to a second successive promotion, when West Bromwich Albion moved to install him as Ronnie Allen's successor in 1978.

Atkinson's flamboyant approach transformed the club. At a time when myths about the "bottle" of black footballers abounded, he had three in arguably the most attractive and effective of all his teams: Brendan Batson, Laurie Cunningham and Cyrille Regis. Albion came third in the old First Division, prompting United to lure him to Old Trafford in 1981.

After going back to Albion for Bryan Robson and Remi Moses for £2.5m, the onus was on Atkinson to restore the championship to United. In 1985, after further heavy spending, they took 41 of the first 45 points, only to fall away to fourth after Robson and Strachan suffered long-term injuries.

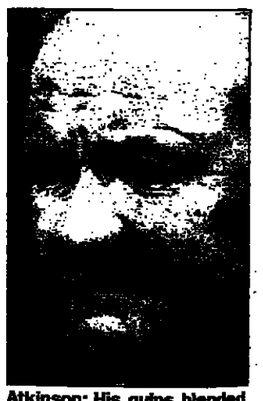
Two FA Cups were not enough to prevent his making way for Alex Ferguson 10 years ago today. Characteristically, Atkinson laughed off his demise: "I've had to swap my Merc for a BMW, I'm down to my last 40 suits and I'm drinking non-vintage champagne."

A return to West Brom was short-lived, his defection at Atletico Madrid provoking bitterness and legal action. In Spain he lasted 96 days before falling foul of that serial sacker, Jesus Gil. Sheffield Wednesday offered the chance of rehabilitation, and stuck by him after relegation in his first full season. Wednesday not only came straight back up, but won the League Cup – against Manchester United – before Atkinson abandoned them for Aston Villa in 1991. The pattern at Villa Park became familiar: football that was pleasing on the eye and brought League Cup success, but Premiership results fell short of Doug Ellis's expectations.

Atkinson's dismissal in late 1994 – months after Villa's Wembley triumph – hurt him badly. Ellis claimed there were too many veterans in the squad. Tenuous as the argument seemed, Ferguson said only last week that the difference between him and Atkinson was that he preferred to nurture young talent, whereas his predecessor liked to buy the finished article.

Coventry enticed him back in February last year. His sense of humour was intact – "My missus reckons if people don't recognise me in the street, I go back and tell them who I am," he said on day one – as was his appetite for big transfer deals. He spent £15.6m on players, eight of whom cost a modestly supported club seven-figure sums.

His purist principles had also survived, though at times Coventry looked as if they would benefit from an equal measure of pragmatism. They won only 14 out of 63 League games under Atkinson. "I'm 56 and I'm the best five-a-side player at the club," he said last year, adding: "Mind you, that's probably why we are down at the bottom." The change will at least ensure that the legend is not further tarnished.



Atkinson: His quips blended swagger and self-mockery

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BT It's good to talk

هكذا من الاصل

Wright feels bright and breezy in his new world

Football

GLENN MOORE

After the redemption, the rejuvenation. Counselling has been the buzzword of the week but at Bisham Abbey yesterday Ian Wright demonstrated the value of positive thinking.

On Saturday Wright scored his 13th goal of the season to move top of the Premiership's goal charts; in Georgia next Saturday he could make his first England appearance for two years. On Sunday he was 33 – truly an icon for the spreading-waist generation.

"Not bad for an old 'un," he agreed after training. Wright put his revival down to more sleep (going to bed at 10.30 rather than falling asleep in front of the television after midnight), a better diet (no spreading waist for him), and Arsenal's new Gallic influence. Listening to him, though, his secret appeared to be pure desire.

"I feel I can do anything I want to do as long as my mind is right and I am feeling good about myself. There is no obstacle anyone can put in front of me that can make me not want to play football and play well. My mind is right now, I feel really positive."

The change of management has been instrumental in shaping Wright's new mood. "Everybody knows it was not the best relationship," said Wright of his dealings with the former Arsenal manager Bruce Rioch. "I got so down I didn't even want to go in to training and that has never happened to me in 10 years in the game. I didn't want to be in all that pettiness.

"There was tension, it is more relaxed now. There is a lot of banter now; before it was 'stop messing about, time for work'. Arsenal players know when to work.

"Arsène Wenger is very relaxed. He does not say much during a session. He leaves it to the end, or stops it and has a word. The old sergeant-major thing, the fear factor and frightening kids into playing, is in the past. Managers like that are using methods from way before. The game has gone on.

"Arsène Wenger and Glenn Hoddle treat people like adults and that gets the best out of them. It doesn't need to be done with a whip and a chair. People want to do well anyway.

"Arsène Wenger emphasises one-touch play and getting in the last third quickly – but with quality. It really helps me, I get so many chances."

"Patrick Vieira is doing really well for me," added Wright of his young French team-mate. "It has been a long time since Arsenal had a midfield player who looks for the front man first and then looks for the options. Before I would make a run and the pass would go to the side first, the emphasis was on keeping the ball. I would get frustrated."

Wright's England career is an example of what you can do with statistics. His detractors would point out that, if you take away the four goals against San Marino, he has scored once in 19 internationals. His supporters would note that 10 of those were as substitute, he has only played 90 minutes six times, and he has only played consecutive matches once.

He made his debut at 27 and thought his time had passed. "I was at *Euro 96* in the summer doing radio and I saw it like a fan because I thought it was gone for me. It was unbelievable, I was so into it. Just seeing the boys coming out and warming up. To be back amongst it is so great.

"This means everything to me. It is the highest level you can play at. I feel better about it now, I always felt I wanted to do so well it was killing me. Now it's brilliant, it's a bonus, I wasn't expecting it.

"I felt the golden goal was made for me. I really wanted to be involved in that. I was so jealous of Oliver Bierhoff. To come on and score – it was my whole dream to do that and I was gutted. I would love to be having the season I am having now, then, to see if I could force my way into that squad."

Hoddle, who tried to sign Wright for Chelsea last year, said: "I've always said age doesn't matter. We had a cake for him on Sunday – except we could not get all the candles on – but he was still very sharp in training on Monday."

Wright himself underlined his eagerness. "I've been in football for 10 years and I am still enthusiastic about it. I feel I'm having a last blast."

Dominic Matteo was feeling less chirpy yesterday. When England take off from Luton Airport for Georgia this morning the Liverpool defender will be back at Melwood receiving treatment on his recurring knee injury. It also prevented him from training during his first international call-up last month. At 22, time is on his side but that will be of little consolation today.

■ In the absence of Ben Thatcher, the Manchester United midfielder Nicky Butt will captain the England's Under-21 side in their European Championship qualifier against Georgia in Batumi on Friday afternoon.

Ian Wright was glad to be back on England duty at Bisham Abbey Photograph: Peter Jay

Somerset appoint Reeve as coach

Cricket

Dermot Reeve, the new coach at Somerset, is pledging to produce a fitter team for next season. The former Warwickshire captain believes his new county have the talent to achieve success, particularly with the Pakistan leg-spinner, Mushtaq Ahmed, returning to team up with Andy Caddick.

Reeve, confirmed as Somerset's new first-team coach yesterday, said: "I want to bring in a more professional approach, while creating a relaxed environment which will encourage the players to produce their best.

"There is a lot of talent here and together with Colin Wells I shall be looking to maximise it. I am ready to give 100 per cent to the job and see it as a great new challenge.

"The players will be given incentives to report back fitter than ever in the spring and then we shall try to build on that.

"Fitness is so vital in first-class cricket these days, particularly for the bowlers. It has become something of an obsession with me."

The 32-year-old Reeve was the most successful captain in the county game in the 1990s, but had to step down at the beginning of last season because of a hip injury.

In 1994 he led Warwickshire to the unique treble of the Championship, Benson and Hedges Cup and the Sunday League.

Among Reeve's first duties will be to advise on strengthening Somerset's squad with winter signings and the appointment of a new captain to succeed Andy Hayhurst who left the club at the end of the season.

■ Brian Lara will captain the West Indies for the first time in a limited-overs, day-night match against West Australian at the WACA Ground today. Lara will take over from the tour captain, Courtney Walsh, who will be rested for the second match of the tour.

Brown accepts Ferguson blow

The Scotland manager, Craig Brown, has insisted the latest withdrawal of Duncan Ferguson will not affect his World Cup plans.

The Everton striker has pulled out of Sunday's qualifying match with Sweden with a calf injury which forced him to miss his club's 1-1 Premiership draw with Coventry on Monday.

Ferguson's absence from the tie at Ibrox means the player will have missed 15 of the last 17 games his country has played. The £4m forward has made only two appearances since his transfer from Rangers two years ago and has taken four years to earn just six caps – his last, against Austria in Vienna in August, was his first involvement in 20 months.

Brown said: "It's not exactly a surprise to me. Duncan has missed so many games now, that I'm quite ambivalent about it. But he could have had more than 30 caps by now. If you are an international manager, you have to get used being let down by players. Obviously the striking position is one we are not well-endowed with, so it's disappointing to lose Duncan."

Scotland will learn from Fifa, the governing body of the world game, tomorrow whether they are to get the points from the controversial Estonia match or be forced to replay the fixture, and will be told if captain Gary McAllister's one-match ban has been wiped out or not by the farcical episode in Tallin.

The Wales captain, Barry Horne, is the latest injury casualty before Saturday's World Cup qualifier against the Netherlands in Eindhoven. The 34-year-old Birmingham midfielder had to pull out because of a hamstring strain and his place has gone to Bristol Rovers' Marcus Browning.

Their manager, Bobby Gould, had already lost Ryan Giggs and Nathan Blake to injuries. Mark Hughes is suspended.

Taylor to take over at Orient

Leyton Orient are to confirm the appointment of their former player Tommy Taylor as their new manager tomorrow after he walked out on Cambridge United to join the Brisbane Road side.

Taylor, who took over at the Abbey Stadium club in May last year and has led them to second place in the Third Division, met the Cambridge chairman, Reg Smart, late on Monday after being offered a two-year deal to replace Pat Holland, who was sacked.

Cambridge had refused to offer to extend his contract – which runs out in August – until after his meeting with Orient's chairman, Barry Hearn.

And while Smart responded yesterday with an improved offer of an 18-month deal with an option of a two-year extension, Taylor made it clear that it was too little, too late.

"I would have accepted the offer if they had made it a week ago because I didn't want to leave Cambridge, the players and the supporters," Taylor said.

"But this new offer only came as a panic measure after they heard what I had been offered at Orient.

"I wasn't impressed by the way it came about and I felt in the end I had to leave as a matter of principle."

Taylor, a West Ham teammate of Holland in the Hammers' 1975 FA Cup final victory over Fulham, will finalise the details of his Orient contract today before putting pen to paper at the club he first joined 30 years ago on Thursday morning.

But he left behind him an angry Smart. "I worked hard overnight to get him the improved offer but in view of what he's said maybe it's better that he moves on," Smart said.

"I had a long discussion with Tommy. I felt he was unsure about the move and that it was maybe in his best interests to stay with us.

"After he left I immediately got in touch with the other directors to reconsider our offer, but he'd made his decision within 20 minutes of speaking to me this morning."

While Taylor was set to arrive, there were three departures from Brisbane Road, with former vice-chairman Derek Weinrabe and fellow directors Harry Linney and Vince Marsh all resigning. Hearn hopes to bring new faces in shortly.

SPORTING DIGEST

Henman misery in Moscow

Tennis

Britain's No 1, Tim Henman, suffered his third successive first-round defeat when he was beaten in three sets by Zimbabwe's Byron Black in the Kremlin Cup in Moscow yesterday.

Henman, who dropped three places to 28th in the latest world rankings issued this week, staged a spirited fightback after going down 6-2 in the first set. He won the second 6-3, but, in a disappointing end to the Oxford-based player's startling year on the Tour, Black proved too strong in the decider, which he took 6-4.

Wayne Ferreira, the top seed, lost his chance to qualify for the season-ending ATP Tour Championships when he crashed to defeat against Britain's Greg Rusedski in the opening round of the Stockholm Open.

The Canadian-born Rusedski, who has climbed one place in the world rankings this week from 54 to 53 after showing much-improved form of late, won Monday's match 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

"I was on top from the start," said Rusedski, pleased after winning against a top-10 player for the first time this year.

The 23-year-old Briton's powerful serve and volley kept Ferreira on the run and the South African made many unforced errors, but rallied to win the second set.

Schumacher extends stay at Ferrari

Motor racing

Michael Schumacher has demonstrated his faith in Ferrari by extending his contract with the Italian team to the end of 1999, writes Derick Allsop.

The German, who surrendered his world championship to Damon Hill this year, is thought to have agreed a deal worth £40m for the additional two seasons of his commitment to Ferrari.

Negotiations will have covered also the identity of Schumacher's team-mate, and it is significant Ferrari's announcement yesterday confirmed Eddie Irvine would be retained for next year and that the Ulsterman had an option with the team for 1998.

Above all, however, Schumacher must have been satisfied with the progress and potential at Maranello. As his earnings outside racing more than match his salary, he can well afford to indulge his sporting ambition and it is his aim to regain the title at the wheel of a Ferrari.

Lola have confirmed that it is returning to Formula One next season for the first time since 1993 after securing a four-year sponsorship deal with Mastercard. Possible drivers include the Brazilians Ricardo Rosset and Ricardo Zonta, a double winner in this year's Formula 3000 series.

Despair for Morgan on return home

Snooker

Darren Morgan, the Welshman ranked No 9 in the world, arrived back in Britain yesterday to discover that his mother Cynthia had already died from cancer.

Morgan returned from Bangkok, where he had been playing in the Castrol-Honda World Cup, to be with his ailing mother. But less than 90 minutes into his flight to Heathrow news came through to the Thai capital that she had already died in a Newport hospice.

Mrs Morgan had been fighting against cancer since 1988 but suffered a relapse while her son was on World Cup duty.

The 30-year-old Morgan wanted to travel back earlier in the week but stayed to help Wales qualify for the quarter-finals on his mother's wish.

The remaining team took a break from the event yesterday before the knock-out stages get underway today. When the competition resumes the second favourites, England, meet Australia and the Republic of Ireland take on Canada.

On Thursday Thailand, after their 9-0 whitewash of the United Arab Emirates, face the Welsh. Mark Bennett, who reached the semi-finals of the Grand Prix at Bournemouth 10 days ago, takes Morgan's place.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

7.30 unless stated

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE
Altrincham v Southport (7.45)

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Knowsley v Bamber Bridge; Winsford v Colwyn Bay. **First Division:** Droylsden v Congleton; Lincoln Utd v Farsley Celtic.

ICIS LEAGUE Guardian Insurance Cup second round: Harrow Borough v Enfield; Walton & Hersham v Grays (7.45).

DR MARTENS LEAGUE CUP First round second leg: Fareham (1) v Weymouth (4); Havant (2) v Newport (IoW) (3); St Leonards Stamcroft (2) v Hastings (1).

FA CARLSBERG VASE First-round replays: Wealdstone v Spalding (7.45); Feltham v Stotfold (7.45).

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division: Atherton Collieries v Salford; Chadderton v Clitheroe; Newcastle Town v Trafford; St Helens v Darwen.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Consett v Chester-le-Street; Durham v Guisborough.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Glasshoughton v North Ferriby. **Presidents Cup second round:** Maltby Main v Parkgate.

UNIBET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Three Bridges v Peacehaven; Whitehawk v Hassocks. **John O'Hara League Cup second round:** Mile Oak v Langney (7.15).

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Christchurch v Brockenhurst; Cowes v East Cowes; Eastleigh v Ryde.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: Bury Town v March (7.45); Gorleston v Wisbech (7.45); Soham v Watton (7.45).

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Bridport v Mangotsfield. **Les Phillips Cup first round:** Barnstaple v Taunton (7.45).

LEAGUE OF WALES: Caernarfon Town v Rhyl (7.45); Carmarthen Town v Inter Cable-Tel (7.30); Cwmbran v Ton Pentre (7.30); Ebbw Vale v Newtown (7.30); Flint Town v Cernaes Bay (7.30); Holywell v Conwy (7.30); Porthmadog v Aberystwyth (7.30).

PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division: Bolton v Stoke (7.0); Leeds v Hoom Fox (Halifax Town FC, 7.0); Tranmere v Liverpool (7.0). **First Division:** Aston Villa v Middlesbrough (Walsall FC, 7.0); Notts County v Blackpool (7.0); Port Vale v West Brom (7.0); Preston v Coventry (7.0). **Second Division:** Hull v Burnley (7.0); Stockport v Wrexham (6.45); York v Rotherham (7.0). **Third Division:** Bury v Scunthorpe (7.0); Chester v Rochdale (7.0); Lincoln v Scarborough (7.0); Wigan v Darlington (7.0).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Bournemouth v Norwich (2.0); Brighton v Millwall (2.0); Bristol Rovers v Wimbledon (Yate Town, 7.30); Cardiff v QPR (2.0); Ipswich v West Ham (Bury St Edmunds, 7.15); Luton v Tottenham (2.0); Oxford Utd v Swindon (7.30); Southampton v Watford (Staplewood, Marchwood, 7.30); Swansea v Portsmouth (2.0).

Cricket

TOUR MATCHES: Adelaide (One-day): South Australia v England A; Perth (One-day): Western Australia v West Indies.

Rugby Union

(7.30 unless stated)

CLUB MATCH: Cambridge Univ v French Barbarians (3.0)

RU UNDER-21 INTER DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP: Edinburgh District v Glasgow District (at Murrayfield, 6.0); South of Scotland v Scottish Exiles (at Murrayfield).

ANGLO-WELSH CUP Pool 1A: Neath v Leicester (7.15); Pontypridd v Wasps (7.15). **Pool 2A:** Dunvant v London Irish (7.0). **Pool 1B:** Harlequins v Llanelli (7.15).

Basketball

TUP TROPHY: Crystal Palace v Birmingham Bullets (8.0); Newcastle Eagles v Manchester Giants.

EUROPEAN CUP: London Towers v Verona (Italy, 8.0).

Other sports

NETBALL: Second Test (Nynex Centre, Manchester): England v Jamaica.

POOLS FORECAST AND WEEKEND FIXTURES

Nationwide Football League

First Division
*1 Barnsley v Norwich X
*2 Charlton v Grimsby 1
3 Ipswich v Southend 1
4 Oldham v Portsmouth X
*5 Reading v Tranmere 2
*6 Stoke v Wolverhampton 2
7 West Brom v Port Vale 1
Also playing (not on coupons): Sheff Utd v Swindon. Playing Sunday: Crystal Palace v QPR. Playing Friday: Huddersfield v Bradford.
*Postponed due to international call-ups: Pools panel will adjudicate.

Second Division
8 Blackpool v Bournemouth 1
9 Brentford v Stockport X
10 Bristol City v Millwall 1
11 Burnley v Crewe 2
12 Bury v York 1
13 Chesterfield v Preston 1
14 Luton v Notts County 1
15 Rotherham v Watford 2
*16 Shrewsbury v Bristol Rovers X
17 Walsall v Peterborough 1
18 Wycombe v Plymouth X
Also playing (not on coupons): Gillingham v Wrexham.
*Postponed due to international call-ups: Pools panel will adjudicate.

Third Division
19 Barnet v Rochdale 1
20 Brighton v Mansfield 2
21 Cambridge Utd v Swansea 1
22 Cardiff v Fulham X
23 Chester v Hull 1
24 Exeter v Leyton Orient 1
25 Lincoln v Darlington 1
26 Northampton v Carlisle X
27 Scarborough v Hartlepool 1
28 Scunthorpe v Doncaster 1
29 Torquay v Colchester 1
30 Wigan v Hereford 1

GM Vauxhall Conference
31 Bath v Welsh 1
32 Bromsgrove v Stevenage 2
33 Farnborough v Kettering 1
34 Gateshead v Welling 1
35 Hayes v Stevenage 1
36 Hednesford v Altrincham X
Also playing (not on coupons): Rushden & D'monds v Dover, Slough v Kidderminster, Southport v Macclesfield, Telford v Morecambe, Woking v Northwich.

Scottish League First Division
37 Airdrie v Dundee X
38 Falkirk v Stirling 1
39 St Mirren v Clydebank 1
Postponed: Partick v St Johnstone, East Fife v Greenock Morton.

Second Division
40 Ayr v Stenhousemuir 1
41 Brechin v Livingston 2
42 Dumbarton v Clyde 2
43 Hamilton v Stranraer 1
44 Queen of South v Berwick 1

Third Division
45 Alloa v Ross County X
46 Albroath v Montrose 2
47 Forfar v East Stirling 1
48 Inverness C Thistle v Albion 1
49 Queen's Park v Cowdenbeath 2
Four draws: Barnsley v Norwich, Wycombe v Plymouth, Hednesford v Altrincham, Alloa v Ross County.
Five aways: Tranmere, Watford, Stevenage, Livingston, Montrose.
Ten homes: Charlton, Ipswich, Bury, Chesterfield, Cambridge, Chester, Farnborough, Falkirk, St Mirren, Queen of South.
Playing Monday: Premier Division: Motherwell v Hearts.

American Football

Denver's veteran quarterback, John Elway, engineered his 35th career fourth-quarter comeback victory as the Broncos edged out the Oakland Raiders 22-21 on Monday night. Elway found a wide open Rod Smith streaking down the field and connected on a 49-yard touchdown strike with 4min 14sec remaining as the Broncos won their fifth in a row to raise their record to an AFC-best 8-1.

NFL: Denver 22 Oakland 21.

Basketball

NBA: Houston 75 Utah 72; Atlanta 94 Portland 76.

Cricket

Ed Giddins, the first cricketer to be disciplined for failing a drugs test, will have his appeal against a 20-month ban heard at Lord's on Friday. Giddins, the 25-year-old England A fast bowler sacked by Sussex in the wake of the scandal, is to appear before a four-man Cricket Council panel chaired by Desmond Perrott QC. A Test and County Cricket Board discipline committee banned Giddins from first-class cricket until April 1998 after rejecting in August his plea that a spiked drink was responsible for him testing positive during Sussex's County Championship match against Kent at Tunbridge Wells in late May.

Football

Derby have given up hope of signing the Portuguese striker Paulo Alves from Sporting Lisbon after failing to bring him to the Baseball Ground on loan.

The man in charge of ticket booths and gate personnel has been arrested in connection with the stadium stampede that killed 84 people in Guatemala City on 16 October World Cup before the scheduled start of the qualifying game between Guatemala and Costa Rica. There have been accusations that the game was oversold by as many as 10,000 tickets. At least two people are in custody for peddling bogus tickets.

PREMIERSHIP AND FIRST DIVISION SUSPENSIONS: Sendings Off: R Keane (Man Utd) 1 match from 9th Nov; K Branagan (Bolton) 1 match from 12th Nov; F Sheppard (Portsmouth) 1 match from 9th Nov; L Collins (Swindon) 1 match from 14th Nov. 21. Penalty Points: A Thompson (Bolton) 3 matches from 12th Nov.

Golf

Colin Montgomerie and Ian Woosnam were just one stroke off the lead after the first round in the Johnnie Walker Super Tour in Taipei, Taiwan, yesterday. The top two Europeans both had four-under-par rounds of 68, but three players – South Africa's Ernie Els, Lin Keng-chi of Taiwan and Park Nam-sin of Korea – went one better. Montgomerie recovered from an indifferent start to shoot four birdies in the back nine.

JOHNNIE WALKER SUPER TOUR (Taipei, Taiwan) First-round scores: 67 L Keng-chi (Tai); P Nam-sin (S Kor); E Els (SA). 68 C Montgomerie (Scot); I Woosnam (Wal). 71 F Casas (Phil). 72 V Singh (Fiji). 75 C Pisphol (Thai). (Eight-man field only; second, third and fourth rounds to be played in Seoul, Manila and Bangkok over the next six days).

Hockey

AIRWHA CUP Third round draw: Aldridge v Billingham; Ashford v Cheam; Balsam Leicester v Hendon; Bedford v Leyland Motors; Bishops Stortford v Staines; Blueharts v Macclesfield; Bracknell v Sherwood; Canterbury v Hereford; Clifton v Blackburn; Crimson Ramblers v Didsbury Greys; Doncaster v Bury St Edmunds; Eastcote v Ealing; Guildford v Kettering; Harborne v Whitley Bay; Harleston Magpies v Sunbury; Horsham v Hightown; Ipswich v Sheffield; Lincoln Imps v Wimbledon; Liverpool v Southampton; Luton Town v Loughborough Students; Old Loughtonians v Penzance; Olton v St Albans; Redditch v Epsom; Rover Cowley v Trojans; Slough v North Staffs; Sunderland Bedens v Southgate; Surbiton Canada Life v Exmouth; Wolseley Garden City v Farnborough; West Worcy v Chelmsford; Winchester v Essex; Winchmore Hill v Bude; Wolung v Newcastle. Ties to be played on Sunday 1 December.

Ice hockey

NHL: Los Angeles 4 Boston 4 (ot); Detroit 5 Hartford 1; Tampa Bay 5 NY Rangers 3; NY Islanders 4 Philadelphia 3.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

NORTHEAST DIVISION	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Buffalo	6	0	1	34	20	13
Hartford	5	2	2	33	33	12
Boston	4	5	3	40	40	11
Montreal	4	6	3	52	54	11
Ottawa	3	4	5	34	39	11
Pittsburgh	3	9	0	32	50	6
ATLANTIC DIVISION						
Florida	8	1	4	41	23	20
NY Rangers	8	7	3	54	50	19
Philadelphia	7	8	0	41	43	14
Tampa Bay	8	5	1	42	38	13
New Jersey	5	6	1	25	32	11
Washington	5	7	0	34	39	10
NY Islanders	3	5	4	33	33	10

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Dallas	9	4	0	39	31	18
Chicago	8	5	2	40	36	18
Detroit	8	5	2	41	29	18
Toronto	8	6	0	36	39	12
St Louis	6	6	0	44	45	12
Phoenix	5	7	2	34	37	12
PACIFIC DIVISION						
Colorado	8	4	3	51	32	19
Calgary	7	7	1	42	36	15
Los Angeles	6	6	3	42	48	15
San Jose	6	6	3	45	48	15
Vancouver	7	5	0	39	38	14
Edmonton	7	7	0	47	44	14
Anaheim	2	9	3	32	54	7

Rallying

The Italian Piero Liatti and Britain's Colin McRae strengthened Subaru's grip on the World Rally Manufacturers' Championship yesterday by extending their lead in the Catalunya Rally. Subaru lead Mitsubishi by 33 points in the title race and they look set to retain that advantage. Liatti opened up a 13-second lead on McRae after 10 stages and the Scot was a further 13sec ahead of Belgium's Freddie Loix.

CATALUNYA RALLY (Lloret de Mar, Spain) Leading standings (after 10 stages): 1 P Liatti (It) Subaru Impreza 2hr 17min 16sec; 2 C McRae (GB) Subaru Impreza +13sec; 3 F Loix (Bel) Toyota Celica GT-4 +26; 4 B Thiry (Bel) Ford Escort Cosworth +28; 5 T Makinen (Fin) Mitsubishi Lancer +52; 6 K Eriksson (Swe) Mitsubishi Lancer +1:38; 7 P Bernardini (Fr) Ford Escort +1:52; 8 R Burns (GB) Mitsubishi Lancer +2:12; 9 D Gomez (Sp) Renault Megane +2:28; 10 R Madeira (Por) Toyota Celica GT4 at 2:56.

Rugby League

Hull have made their chief executive, Stephen Ball, redundant as part of the club's management restructuring. Alan Mason, the Hull chairman, said yesterday: "We have asked Steve to continue to advise us on our grant applications and wish to publicly thank him for his major positive contributions over the past 18 months."

Paris yesterday named Peter Mulholland, the former Western Reds boss, as their head coach for next season. The 42-year-old former Canterbury Bankstown player takes up his appointment in January, but will travel to Paris later this month to meet key players from the French competition and members of the Paris management team.

Sailing

A high performance dinghy will be included in the 2000 Olympics following a vote by the council of the International Sailing Federation at its annual general meeting in Brighton yesterday. The choice of dinghy and the exclusion of any existing class to make way for it will be the subject of intense debate and lobbying before a final slate is presented to the council on Friday.

Jochen Schumann, the three-times Olympic gold medallist from Germany, has won the world sailor of the year ward. The women's award went to Hong Kong's Lai Shan Lee, winner of the first and last-ever sailing gold for the colony in the windsurfer class at Savannah. The 1995 winner, Russell Coutts, received the Oegaa achievement award for the year's clean sweep on the match racing circuit.

Tony Bullimore was back in Les Sables d'Olonne 48 hours after the start of the Vendee Globe single-handed round the world race to repair his newly-installed, more powerful autopilot, but expected to be back at sea overnight. Isabelle Autissier, of France, leads with Britain's Pete Goss lying eighth.

Tennis

STOCKHOLM OPEN (Sweden) Men's singles. First round: R Reneberg (US) bt J Stark (US) 7-6 6-4; S Stolle (Aus) bt J Bjorkman (Swe) 6-3 3-6 6-1.

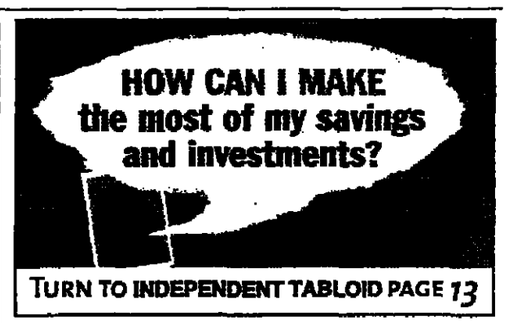
BANK OF THE WEST CLASSIC WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT (Oakland, Calif) Singles. First round: B Schultz-McCarthy (Neth) bt V Wilkins (US) 1-6 6-4 6-4; K Po (US) bt M Maleeva (Bul) 6-0 6-2; L Wild (US) bt C Rubin (US) 6-7 7-6; A Miller (US) bt K Studenikova (Slovak) 6-1 6-1; M Werdel Witmeyer (US) bt B Mulvey (Aus) 7-6 6-2; E Likhovtseva (Rus) bt A Sugiyama (Japan) 2-6 7-6 6-2.

HELLMANN'S CUP (Santiago, Chile) Men's singles, first round: H Gunthardt (Arg) bt M Hood (Can) 6-3 6-3; M Caballero (Arg) bt M Chamizo (Arg) 6-2 6-1; E Alvarez (Sp) bt R Jabali (Br) 6-1 6-4; N Lapentti (Ecu) bt G Markus (Arg) 6-4 6-4; O Gross (Ger) bt M Rodriguez (Arg) 6-7 6-4 6-3; F Meligeni (Br) bt F Santoro (Fr) 6-3 6-1; A Hernandez (Mex) bt S Cortez (Chile) 6-3 3-6 6-2; G Silberstein (Chile) bt D Del Rio (Arg) 6-3 6-3.

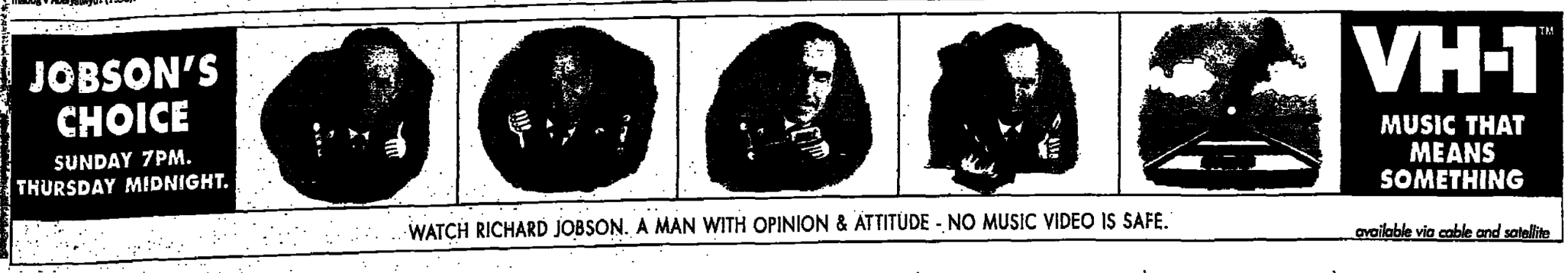
TODAY'S NUMBER

51

The minutes that had elapsed before Shaun Cassidy made history by becoming rugby union's first tactical substitution in Bedford's match against South Africa A. Previously only replacements for injured players were allowed.



TURN TO INDEPENDENT TABLOID PAGE 13



MELBOURNE CUP
Australia finds Saintly hero to repel the Europeans, page 25

sport

UNITED HE STANDS
Alex Ferguson focused on the next 10 years, page 26

De Glanville given England captaincy

Rugby Union
CHRIS HEWETT

Blood is thicker than water. Jack Rowell, the England coach, went back to the bosom of his beloved Bath yesterday and named Phil de Glanville as his new national captain. If Lawrence Dallaglio, the red-hot favourite for the job, is suffering the sharp pangs of disappointment, imagine how Will Carling and Jeremy Guscott must feel.

When Carling gave up the captaincy at the end of last season's Five Nations' Championship, he insisted that he had every intention of prolonging his international career among the foot soldiers. Today, he faces a straight fight with his long-time partner Jeremy Guscott for the one available centre place against Italy on 23 November.

Which is not to say that he will necessarily lose that battle; Carling's recent club form for Harlequins has been everything it should be and more, and his enthusiasm for the rough and tumble of an unforgiving sport remains undiluted. But Guscott is in sensational nick and has the advantage of a lengthy club partnership with the new skipper. Unless Rowell gambles by playing either man out of position, he will have to leave one of them out and whoever goes over the edge will make an awfully big splash.

For De Glanville, selection is no longer an issue – not his own, at any rate. The 28-year-old Oxford Blue, born in Loughborough but forged in the fires of the most successful club outfit in English rugby history, will be the first name on the team sheet until the end of the season and, if all goes well, far beyond.

"I'm confident I'll be at the next World Cup in 1999," he said yesterday, blinking through the dazzle of a hundred flashbulbs. "Will Carling did fantastic things for English rugby, thrusting it into the forefront of the world game, and he remains a tremendous player. But now is the time for someone new to put his stamp on the side, to bring a positive attitude towards the way we play at international level."

De Glanville has worked closely with Rowell since 1990, when he joined Bath from Oxford. Notoriously, the coach's relationship with Carling had more downs than ups; now that he has manoeuvred a familiar and trusted face into a position of such influence, Rowell can move ahead more confidently with a radical restructuring of his side.

"Jack and I go back a long way," De Glanville said. "We can be straight with each other and we will be in the future. I'm sure. If something needs saying, I'm the sort to say it. So is Jack, of course, but I see myself as a representative of the players and a conduit between them and the governing body, and that is an important position to be in. There is an awful lot to sort out immediately, particularly off the pitch, and I want to see the Rugby Football Union sit down with the clubs and hammer out an agreement so that we can all get on with the game."

So there. Like almost every other member of the 43-strong England squad, De Glanville has yet to sign an RFU contract that would virtually guarantee him around £70,000 for this season's activities at international level. As the grey suits in the corridors of power are likely to discover sooner rather than later, he is nobody's pushover.

Thanks to his promotion, however, he is unlikely to need his international money to stave off the bailiffs. Carling glamorised the job of England captain to such an extent during his eight years at the helm that De Glanville, who has already been snapped up by the agency that markets Anthea Turner, can expect commercial spin-offs worth at least £200,000 a season and possibly a great deal more.

Rowell admitted yesterday that other names had come under consideration for the top job and that he had spoken at length to all the candidates. Dallaglio, the Wasps captain, and Jason Leonard, his Harlequins counterpart and the most experienced forward in the England side, posed the greatest threats to De Glanville, but the coach emphasised that he had reached his decision early and had only delayed revealing all because of the political uncertainty off the field.

"We've had eight months to think about this and there were several outstanding candidates, but I wanted someone not only good enough to hold his place but who had the respect of his colleagues and possessed the ability to read a game and adjust to whatever demands might arise. This is a big challenge for Phil but then, he has come through a very challenging period of captaincy at Bath where the weight of expectation is always heavy."

Rowell was due to name the England side to face Italy before today's training session at Bisham Abbey. Tim Stimpson, the Newcastle full-back, Adedayo Adebayo, the Bath wing, and two young forwards, Phil Greening of Gloucester and Simon Shaw of Bristol, were all in the frame for a first cap.

Yesterday, the RFU announced that their long-term sponsors, Cellnet, had injected another "substantial six-figure sum" into England's coffers. In return, the company will have their logo splashed across the national shirts throughout this season's seven-Test programme.

The hard centre, page 24

Monarch of all he surveys: Phil de Glanville gets a feel yesterday for standing tall at Twickenham, where he will lead England out on 23 November Photograph: David Ashdown

'Delighted' Carling quick to applaud appointment

Will Carling graciously applauded his successor as England captain: "I am delighted for Phil. He has been and will be an excellent captain. I have always said so," he said.

"I realise the ramifications from my point of view. There is only one other centre position available. But selection is now out of my hands and I have been playing okay."

As to be expected, management and players at Bath were equally enthusiastic. The director of rugby, John Hall, said: "Phil is a very strong character, and will not be frightened of making decisions. This is great news for him and the club, and it's a perfect reward for all our efforts down the years. Phil has got some great qualities, but inside that smooth exterior is one very tough guy. I think that Phil should play alongside Jerry [Guscott], and in doing that, England will have the best two centres in Britain."

Guscott also welcomed de Glanville's new role. "I am very pleased that Phil has been made captain. He is the best man for the job," his Bath team-mate said.

"He's got the respect of all the international players, and has been knocking on the door for some time. From my point of view, it would be nice to play alongside him for England.

"I think that Lawrence [Dallaglio] will be disappointed because he cannot help himself sometimes believing what he reads in the press."

Mike Catt said: "Phil has definitely shown his true colours, and I think he has got the respect of everyone. I think the England players will know what he is about. It has come at the right time for him after he was injured, and he has come back to play at his best again."

Jon Sleightholme believes he can benefit personally from de Glanville's presence if he retains his England right-wing berth. "He will be an excellent captain, and he will help me if I am there. Phil will give 110 per cent commitment".

Brian Moore, England's most capped hooker, said: "It must mean that the England camp has made a decision about the centre pairing. Now either Will Carling or Jeremy Guscott is not going to feature in the long-term plans coming up to the World Cup in 1999. I'd actually put my mark down for Phil much earlier, notwithstanding the fact that he wasn't first choice centre at the time."

CAPTAIN'S LOG: THE DE GLANVILLE FILE

England's new captain has two nicknames: "Blouse" (as in "a big girl's..."), which he earned during early days at Bath because of his frequent visits to the treatment table, and "Hollywood", because of his film-star looks

Did his best to earn the first nickname and lose the second by breaking his nose seven times. Also needed 15 stitches in his left eyelid after falling under the boots of the All Blacks pack

Has progressed to the highest point in the English game despite having the middle name Ranulph

Exotic names run in the family: his wife, a maths teacher, is called Yolanda

Father, Derek, sells scrummaging machines

Developed that Hollywood physique during long months of hard training as a 17-year-old while taking a year out in Australia

Has grown up a lot since he worked for Cow & Gate, the baby food manufacturers

...and could now be a candidate for investigation by Agent Mulder of the X-files because of current job as marketing consultant with Druid Systems Ltd

Watch out Matt Dawson and Kyran Bracken: the new captain played scrum-half at school

Jack's lad rather than a Jack-the-lad: he first came under Jack Rowell's wing when he signed for Bath in 1990 while a student at Oxford

A team-man: he refused to lead Bath up to collect the Pilkington Cup in 1995 until injured regular captain John Hall had left his Twickenham seat to lift the trophy

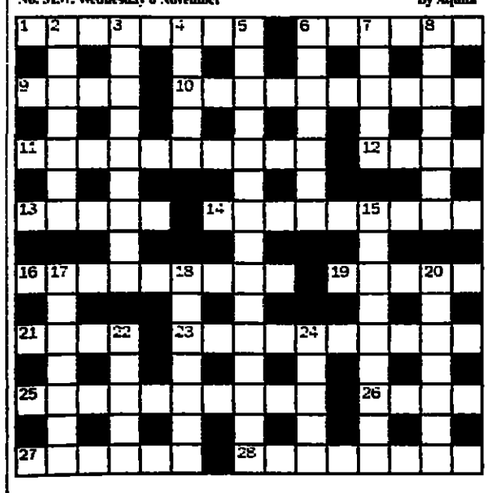
Has single-handedly kept sportswear manufacturers in business by wearing out umpteen pairs of shorts while sitting on England's replacement bench 22 times

Prudish spectators may be forced to cover their ears under pressure of the ferocious half-time team talks he delivers to his charges at the first sign of slackness

Received news of the England captaincy while playing golf with team-mate Jon Sleightholme

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

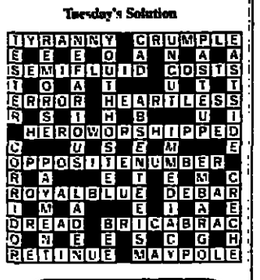
No. 3137. Wednesday 6 November By Aquila



ACROSS
1 Longing, in dungeon, to have calves covered? (4-4)
6 Road risk of ambush (6)
9 Housewife imprisoned in the Tuileries (4)
10 Number of horses stop with this leg-spasm (10)
11 Entertainers' telegraphed responses heard (3-6)
12 Tropical plant approved by sun god (4)
13 A line-out inappropriate? (5)
14 Novel plot in singular Conservative policy (5,4)
16 Quiet tenant of Lincoln, possibly (9)
19 French composer of unlimited freedom (5)
21 Dahlia, to Wooster, turns out to be a nut (4)
23 Rush commonly completed with care (10)
25 Verdi-Holst arrangement not lasting long (5-5)
26 I twice get the bird (4)
27 Small, ugly figures of international bankers (6)
28 Recitals in church for one in a silent order (8)

DOWN
2 New ballet movements in game for women (7)
3 The wicked devil rose in a terrible state (9)
4 How Germans consume most of French petrol? (7)
5 Fourth or fifth, ideal break for musicians (7,8)
6 Angry words in royal house (7)
7 Brute trapped by a hook, in the interior (5)
8 Banking flap on a lire exchange (7)
15 One may turn up the volume at work (9)
17 Make coarse growly harrumph, initially, in French cathedral? (7)
18 Dali started with great numbers of meaningless drawings (7)
20 Joplin's style of Maigret mystery? (7)
22 Half of them odd, to drum incessantly (5)
24 Charlotte's first date arranged with young soldier (5)

Tuesday's Solution



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Coventry mishandle Atkinson's switch

Football
PHIL SHAW

As baton hand-overs go, it was on a par with the mess into which Britain's male sprinters got themselves at the Olympics. Ron Atkinson passed the managership of Coventry City on to Gordon Strachan yesterday, but took up his new post as director of football complaining that he was upset about the way the change had been handled.

Atkinson, at 57 the oldest manager in the Premiership, said soon after taking over at Highfield Road 21 months ago that Strachan would succeed him next summer. In the wake of Coventry's draw at Everton on Monday, which left them third from bottom, the club confirmed they had brought forward the 39-year-old assistant manager's appointment with the consent of both parties.

It was the fact that the news was leaked to a newspaper which left Atkinson angry. "It annoyed me that it was leaked by someone who is a member of our board of directors. I cannot name that person but I know who it is. He has let down the club and the chairman," he said.

"I was so annoyed that I was of a mind to quit, but the chairman persuaded me to stay. We wanted to make the transition smoothly and without fuss. Gordon Strachan can be assured that I will not be looking over his shoulder. My new role appeals to me and I intend to be very active."

Bryan Richardson, the Coventry chairman, earlier rebutted reports that Atkinson had been dismissed. "He was not sacked at all. He came and approached me at the end of last week to discuss the idea of Gordon taking over the running of the team," he said.

"All we've done is bring forward exactly what we said before. It was Ron's original idea when Gordon came to us that there was this absolute and firm plan. It's in Gordon's contract and it's in Ron's that Gordon would take over."

It is clear Coventry's parlous position has prompted them effectively to end Atkinson's 22-year career as a League manager. Despite his lavish spending – £15.6m – the Sky Blues, who have been members of the top flight since 1967, again face a fight against relegation.

Strachan, who continues to make cameo appearances as a substitute, had been widely expected to succeed Howard Wilkinson as manager of Leeds. When it became clear that Wilkinson was not ready to move "upstairs", the former Scottish international threw in his lot with Atkinson, under whom he played for Manchester United during the 1980s.

A colourful career, page 26

Sinclair to stay at Loftus Road

Trevor Sinclair yesterday brought a sudden stop to what was building up into the season's biggest transfer scramble when he withdrew his request and began negotiations for a new, improved contract with Queen's Park Rangers.

Stewart Houston had resigned himself to losing the £5m-rated winger after the 23-year-old submitted a transfer request last month. The QPR manager viewed Sinclair's decision as the perfect signal to the Rangers fans that the club was as committed to returning to the Premiership as any of their players and supporters.

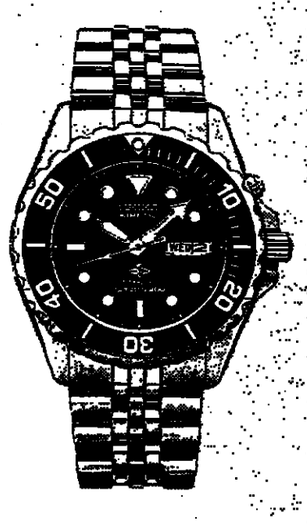
Sinclair's decision – it is understood that the club have effectively reached a compromise that he might be allowed to go if promotion is not achieved – will be a big blow for Spurs, Leeds and Blackburn.

Sinclair, who was "delighted" to say he had withdrawn his transfer request "after long, frank and honest discussions" will play in Sunday's London derby with Crystal Palace.

Cash-starved Nottingham Forest are ready to sell one-time record signing Bryan Roy after losing patience with the out-of-form Dutch international. Manager Frank Clark paid £2.5m to Italian club Foggia for the 26-year-old striker in August 1994 and Roy's partnership with Stan Collymore helped Forest clinch a Uefa Cup place.

But his form dipped after Collymore's departure. He disappointed last season with eight goals in 28 matches and has made the starting line-up only three times this season despite Forest's slide into the bottom two of the Premiership.

Good-bye battery



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